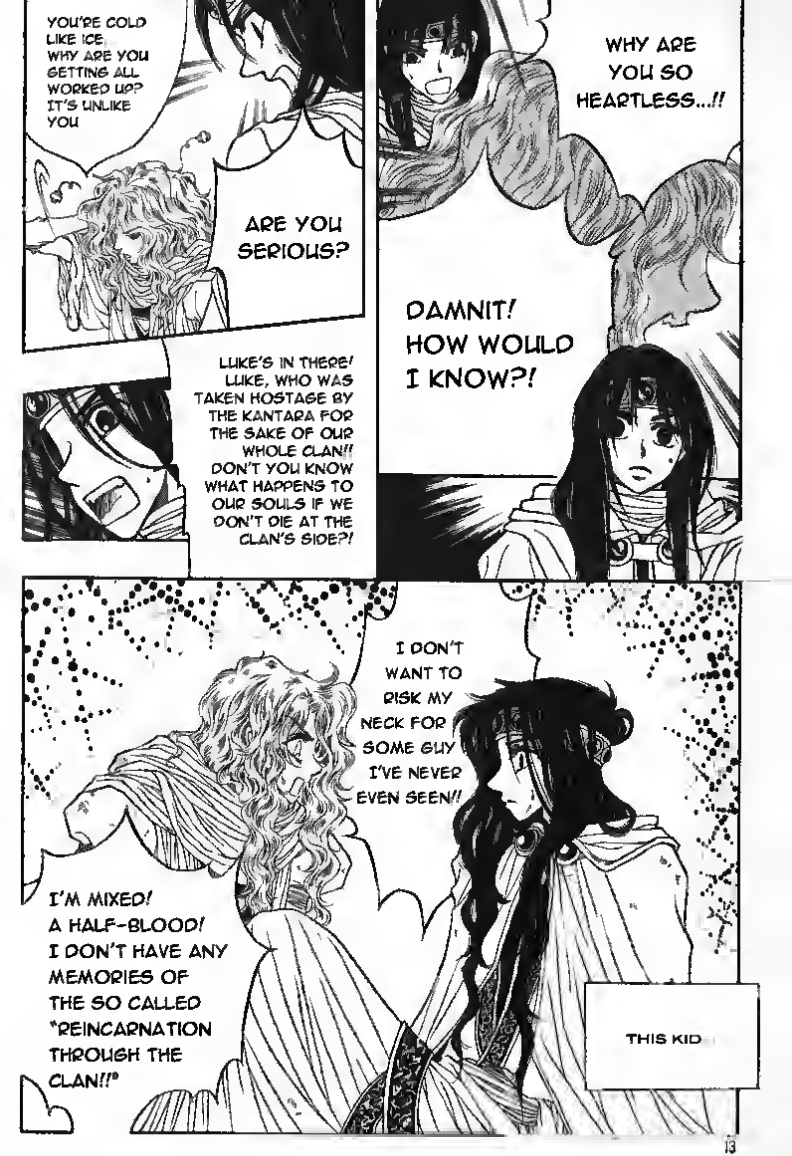
BRO-
THER!!
NO!!
BROTHER!!
WAIT!
BROTHER!!
DID YOU FORGET
YOKNA'S
WARNING?
IT'S A NEST OF
DEMONS AHEAD!
!!
DAMNIT!!
YANOK!!

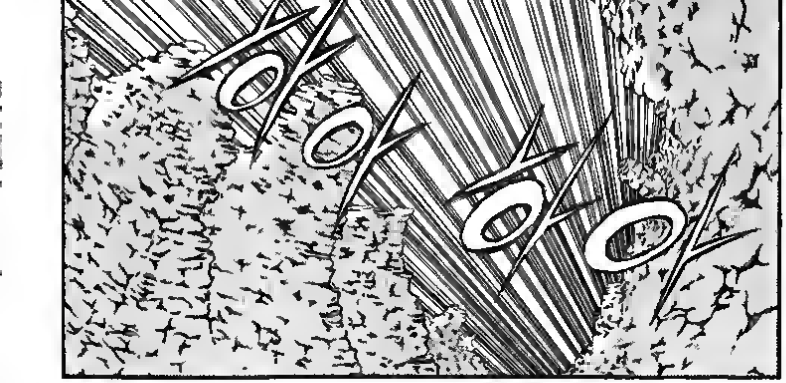
TUMBLE
YA-NOK... YOU...
HAVE YOU GONE MAD, TO GRAB THE REINS OF A RUNNING YAK!? DO YOU HAVE A DEATH WISH?
...THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU. WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
SNORT
URK...


YOU'RE COLD LIKE ICE. WHY ARE YOU GETTING ALL WORKED UP? IT'S UNLIKE YOU
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHY ARE YOU SO HEARTLESS...!!
DAMNIT! HOW WOULD I KNOW?!
LUKE'S IN THERE! LUKE, WHO WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE BY THE KANTARA FOR THE SAKE OF OUR WHOLE CLAN!! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR SOULS IF WE DON'T DIE AT THE CLAN'S SIDE?!
I DON'T WANT TO RISK MY NECK FOR SOME GUY I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN!!
I'M MIXED! A HALF-BLOOD! I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF THE SO CALLED "REINCARNATION THROUGH THE CLAN!!"
THIS KID

DAMNIT! THIS IS WHY I HATE REINCARNATES! THEY'RE RECKLESSLY BRAVE, EVEN WHEN THEY'RE NOT WARRIORS!
IS YOUR LIFE THAT WORTHLESS? IS IT A COMMODITY? IS IT!?
YANOK..
...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU SO ANGRY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE ME THIS ANGRY!!
...THAT'S WHY I AM FOND OF YOU, YANOK.
IT'S TRUE THAT THE BLUE MOON CLAN DOESN'T FEAR DEATH BORN AND REINCARNATED INTO THE SAME CLAN, DEATH IS ONLY ANOTHER STAGE OF LIFE.
TO US, DEATH IS MEANING-LESS.

AND THAT'S WHY THE BLUE MOON CLAN IS GOING EXTINCT.
IF DEATH IS MEANINGLESS, THAT APPLIES TO LIFE AS WELL. MANY CLANSMEN ARE UNABLE TO STAND THIS NIHILITY AND COMMIT SUICIDE. OUR FATE WAS SEALED THE MOMENT WE LEFT OUR HOMELAND. WE'RE TAINTED, WE HAVE NO FUTURE.
THAT'S WHY YOUNG SOULS LIKE YOU ARE NEEDED LUKE TOO, IS A YOUTHFUL SOUL. BOTH OF YOU HAVE AN INESTIMABLE VALUE.

BROTHER...
DON'T WORRY
MY MIND IS CLEAR NOW.



SFX: PANT PANT

IF WE DON'T GET INTO THE VILLAGE BY THEN...
JUST...
..GO BY YOUR-SELF.
YOU. CAN SURVIVE IF YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, RIGHT?

I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN ANY MORE
.....
JUST LEAVE...
SLAP
GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF
THAT LIFE DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU MUSHUK TRADED HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE IT, SO IT'S HIS
YOU CAN'T JUST DECIDE TO DIE ON YOUR OWN

...AND.
clink
THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY TIME LEFT.
LUKE!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
PUT ME DOWN RIGHT NOW! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!
...HOW NOISY.

HAAA..
I'M TIRED,
SO STOP YOUR
BOTHERSOME
CHATTERING.
IT MAKES ME
WANT TO
THROW YOU
OVER.
DASH
THROW ME!
THROW ME THEN!
I NEVER
BEGGED YOU TO
SAVE MY LIFE!
SO JUST
THROW ME!
DON'T
TEMPT
ME...
PUT ME DOWN!
LET ME DOWN!
YOU CAN
JUST THROW
AWAY
SOMEONE
LIKE ME!
JUST
THROW
ME ASIDE
ALREADY!
"IS IT HER?"
THE
MASTER'S
ILLEGITIMATE
CHILD.

I HEAR HER MOTHER'S THE DAUGHTER OF THAT EXORCIST! POOR EXORCIST GRANDMA... WITH A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING DAUGHTER LIKE THAT...
THAT LOOSE WOMAN... HOW DARE SHE GIVE BIRTH ON THE SAME DAY AS THE MISTRESS?! THANK GOODNESS YOUNG MISTRESS HARU WAS BORN!
AND THE MASTER TOO! HE FIRST DARED TO STEAL THE MISTRESS' SPOT... NOW THIS?!
SHH! THE CHILD MIGHT HEAR!
ANYWAYS, DON'T GET CLOSE TO THAT CHILD! SHE'S BAD LUCK.
MOM WAS A PRETTY AND AVARICIOUS WOMAN
LOTS OF MEN AND THE SMELL OF PERFUME AND ALCOHOL.
KNOWN AS THE MOST SHAMEFUL WOMAN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD -
THAT WOMAN WAS MY MOTHER.
ahhaha

MOM HATED ME

AND,

*NOTE: REMEMBER, END ISLAND IS A MATRIARCHAL SOCIETY

ONE NIGHT ON A FULL MOON.
IN A DRUNKEN STUPOR, SHE VANISHED INTO THE SEA.

A PATHETIC.
AND CRUEL WOMAN.
EVEN AT THE VERY END, SHE NEVER LOOKED BACK AT ME.
THIS ME, UNWANTED BY HER OWN MOTHER...
WHO'LL LOVE ME?

KRA-
KEN?!
BOOM

SWIPE
SLAM
Guh!!
BAM
SHING
SNAP
Kok...

IS THIS IT?
IS THIS THE END?
...YOU WANT TO KILL ME?
HEH...
HEH...
HEH...

FINE.
KILL ME.
MOM,
YOU MADE
A MISTAKE.
THE ONE
WHO WAS
SUPPOSED
TO GO IN
THE SEA
WASN'T YOU.
NO...
IT WASN'T
YOU.
I don't want to live any longer either.

This life.
I'm sick of...

M... MISS MIRU?
NO...!!
DON'T!!!
SQUOOSH
CRUNCH

—I HAVE A BAD FEELING WILL IT REALLY BE OKAY LIKE THIS?
LET ME GO!! MIRU'S IN... MIRU'S IN DANGER!!
MY SISTER
MY SISTER, WHO HASN'T BEEN HAPPY EVEN ONCE IN HER LIFE IS ALONE OUT THERE!!
SHE'S NOT ALONE

CHIEF!
MUSHUK AND LUKE.
THE STRONGEST WARRIORS ARE WITH HER.
SO PLEASE BE AT EASE.
WE SHALL PROTECT YOUR BLOOD KIN.
CLACK
LADY RUKIA, I REQUEST IN RETURN -
PLEASE PROTECT OUR CHILDREN.

HEAR ME, WARRIORS OF KANTARA!!
INVINCIBLE FIGHTING SPIRIT! DESERT STORM!! TODAY, WE PUT OUR LIVES ON THE LINE!!
WAAAAAAAAA
GO FORTH AND PIERCE THE ENEMY'S HEART!! PROTECT THE VILLAGE AND RAISE THE FLAG OF WARRIORS!!

GO!!
LET US SHOW THE ENEMY OUR STRENGTH!!
LET US FIGHT!! ALL ENEMIES WILL FALL BEFORE US!!
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

AAAAAAAAA...
PASHUKA...? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
THE COMMUNITY WELL.
THE DEEPEST AND MOST COVERT SACRED GROUND. EVERYBODY HAS EVACUATED THERE.
NO!! I CAN'T!! TO LEAVE MY SISTER IN OTHERS' HANDS... I - !!
TRUST THEM.
FATHER GAVE YOU THE MASK'S VOW.
EH?
...ONCE A KANTARA REACHES ADULTHOOD, HE RECIEVES A MASK OF HIS OWN.
CLACK!
A MASK IS THE SYMBOL OF A WARRIOR. HIS HONOR. HIS LIFE. SO TAKING OFF THAT MASK MEANS THAT HE WILL RISK IT ALL. THE GREATEST OATH OF ALL.
FWOOSH

WORRY NOT, RUKIA. FATHER WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE EVEN AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE AND SOUL.
NO MATTER WHAT.
I... I HAD NO IDEA...
IT'S ALRIGHT, RUKIA. TO KEEP A VOW IS A WARRIOR'S GREATEST HONOR.
PASHUKA, I..
I AM PROUD OF MY FATHER.
...I'M ABASHED. I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT MYSELF.
I WAS SELFISHLY THINKING THAT IT WOULD ALL BE FINE IF MIRU WERE SAFE.....
PASHUKA...

I'M SORRY, MIRU.
I'M GOING WITH
THESE PEOPLE NOW.
EVEN THOUGH
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I CAN DO FOR THEM...
SO PLEASE,
JUST BE
SAFE!!
...IT'S
...NOT
ATTACK-
ING?

THE KRAKEN... THAT VIOLENT DEMON...
GRRR...
GRR...
PROTECTED MIRU INSTEAD!!

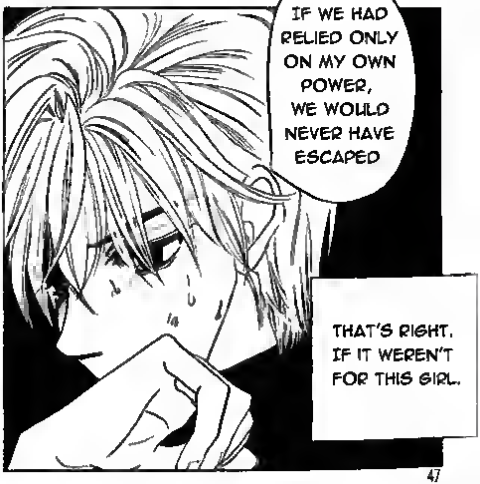
HUH?
ISN'T THAT LUKE?
WHAT?
IT'S TRUE! LUKE!! OVER HERE!! COME IN!!
PANT
MAN, YOU WERE ALIVE AFTER ALL!! WHAT A RELIEF!
PANT

WHAT OF THE CHIEF?
HE SENT OUT AN ARMY TO ATTACK THE DEMONS, SO HE WENT WITH THEM, TO LOOK FOR YOU GUYS.

WHAT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? WE CAN BARELY GUARANTEE OUR OWN SURVIVAL EVEN IF WE POUR OUR FORCES INTO DEFENSE... BUT HE WENT AND SENT OUT AN ARMY?!
IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS GIRL. THE CHIEF MADE THE MASK'S VOW TO PROMISE HE WOULD SAVE THIS GIRL
BUT THE SITUATION MUST BE BETTER THAN WE THOUGHT, SINCE YOU EVEN RESCUED THE GIRL WHAT ABOUT MUSHUK?

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S EVEN ALIVE THE LAST I SAW OF HIM WAS HIM SURROUNDED BY DEMONS. IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO ESCAPE.
WHAT? MUSHUK? YOU'RE SAFE LIKE THIS, BUT HOW IS MUSHUK...!?
HE HELPED US ESCAPE. HIS LAST WISH WAS TO GET THAT GIRL TO SAFETY. WE WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE THANKS TO HIM.

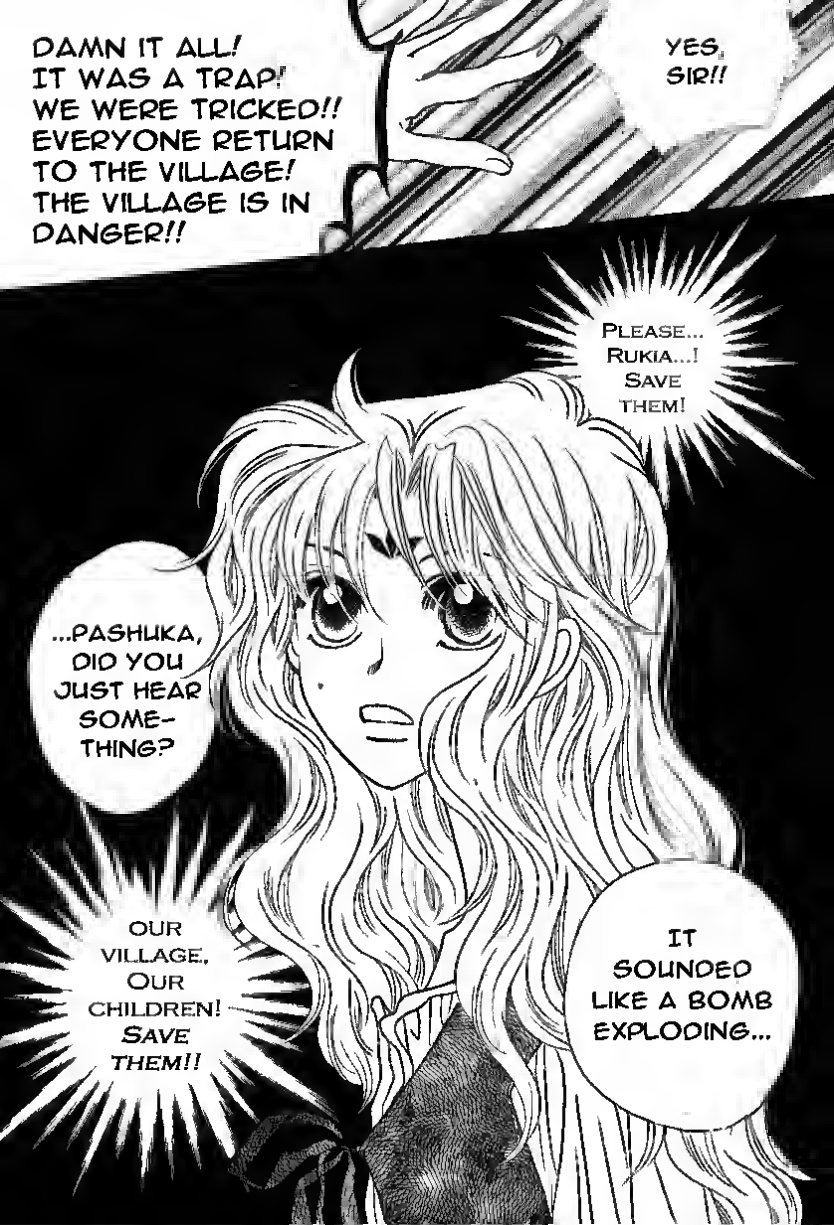

IF WE HAD RELIED ONLY ON MY OWN POWER, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE ESCAPED
THAT'S RIGHT. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS GIRL.

EVEN NOW I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. STARTING FROM THE KRAKEN, ONE BY ONE THE DEMONS KNELT, WAITING FOR US TO PASS BY.
AS IF THEY WORSHIPPED THIS GIRL...
I HAVEN'T EVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING.
WHO ARE YOU?

HAVI. HOW MANY SOLDIERS ARE LEFT IN THE VILLAGE?
L LET'S SEE. FIFTY OR SO? IS THE OUTSIDE SITUATION THAT SERIOUS? LUKE! IS IT THAT BAD?
...IT'S DEFINITELY NOT GOOD. WE MIGHT EVEN BE MASSACRED.
WE CAN'T JUST FALL HERE! LET'S GATHER AS MANY OF OUR MEN AS WE CAN!
JUST WHAT KIND OF HUMAN ARE YOU?
ARE YOU REALLY EVEN A HUMAN?
A-ALRIGHT! I'M A KANTARA TOO, DAMNIT! LET'S FIGHT!!
ME TOO!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE CAN'T JUST LAY DOWN AND WAIT TO DIE!

I STILL...
UWAAK!!
BOOM
W-WHAT? DID SOMETHING EXPLODE?
IT CAN'T BE...
OI! LUKE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HAVI! IF THE CHIEF COMES BACK, TELL HIM THERE'S SOMEONE CONTROLLING THE DEMONS!
LUKE?
LUKE!!

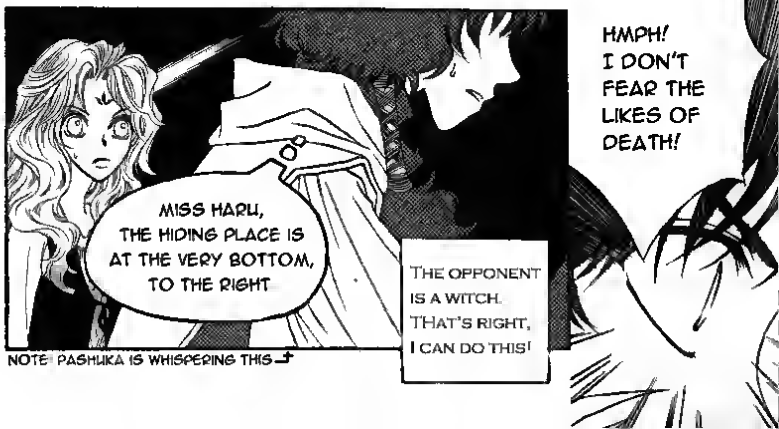
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION.
IT CAME FROM THE VILLAGE!
DID THEY INVADE THE VILLAGE!?
...DID WE GET LURED OUT HERE?
.....
EH? LURED? HOW CAN THAT BE?
NO, IT'S SUSPICIOUS. LIKE IT'S ALL BEEN PLANNED BY SOME-ONE...


DAMN IT ALL! IT WAS A TRAP! WE WERE TRICKED!! EVERYONE RETURN TO THE VILLAGE! THE VILLAGE IS IN DANGER!!
YES, SIR!!
PLEASE... RUKIA...! SAVE THEM!
...PASHUKA, DID YOU JUST HEAR SOME-THING?
OUR VILLAGE, OUR CHILDREN! SAVE THEM!!
IT SOUNDED LIKE A BOMB EXPLODING...

KYAK!!
OH MY♡ MY MISTAKE♥

MY BAD♡ I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ELEMENTAL SPIRIT♥
IT'S GOOD THAT I MET YOU, THOUGH♡ DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE THE ELEMENTAL SPIRIT IS?♥

CLEVER ELEMENTAL SPIRIT♡
Crumble
AS EXPECTED OF AN ANCIENT ONE, IT'S HIDDEN ITSELF QUITE WELL♥
NOW, CHILDREN♡ WHERE IS YOUR ELEMENTAL SPIRIT HIDING?♥ IT'S BETTER TO TELL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE♡
Crumble

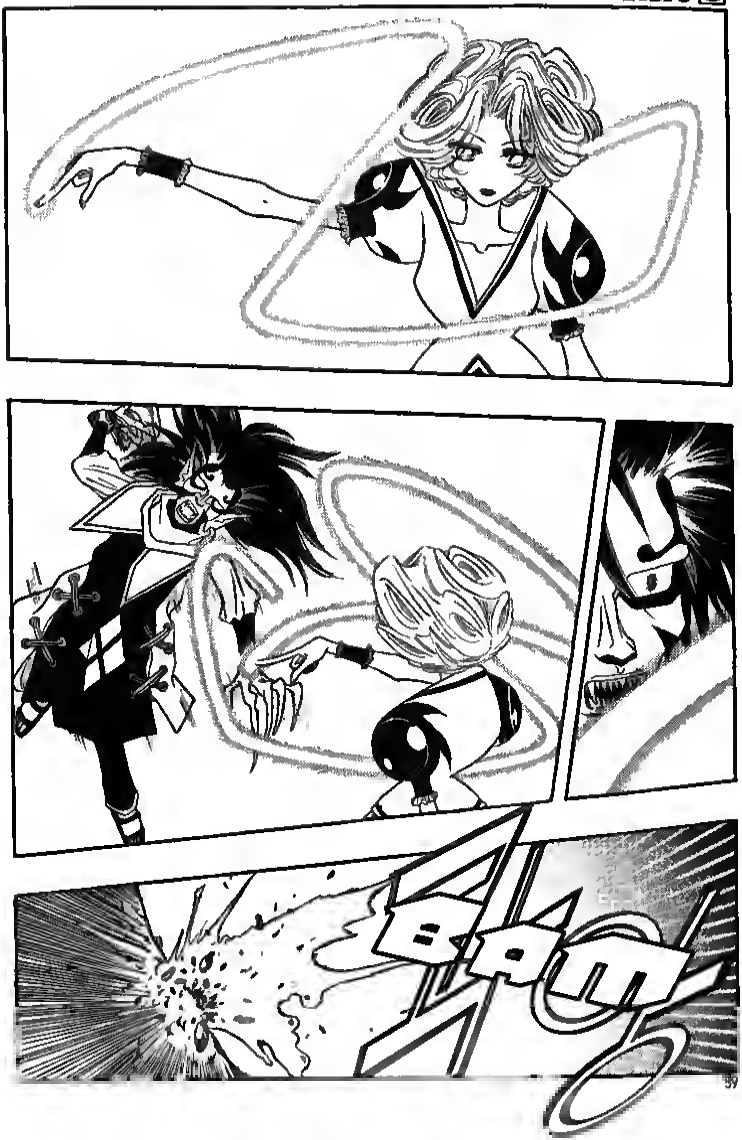

MISS HARU, THE HIDING PLACE IS AT THE VERY BOTTOM, TO THE RIGHT
THE OPPONENT IS A WITCH. THAT'S RIGHT, I CAN DO THIS!
HMPH! I DON'T FEAR THE LIKES OF DEATH!

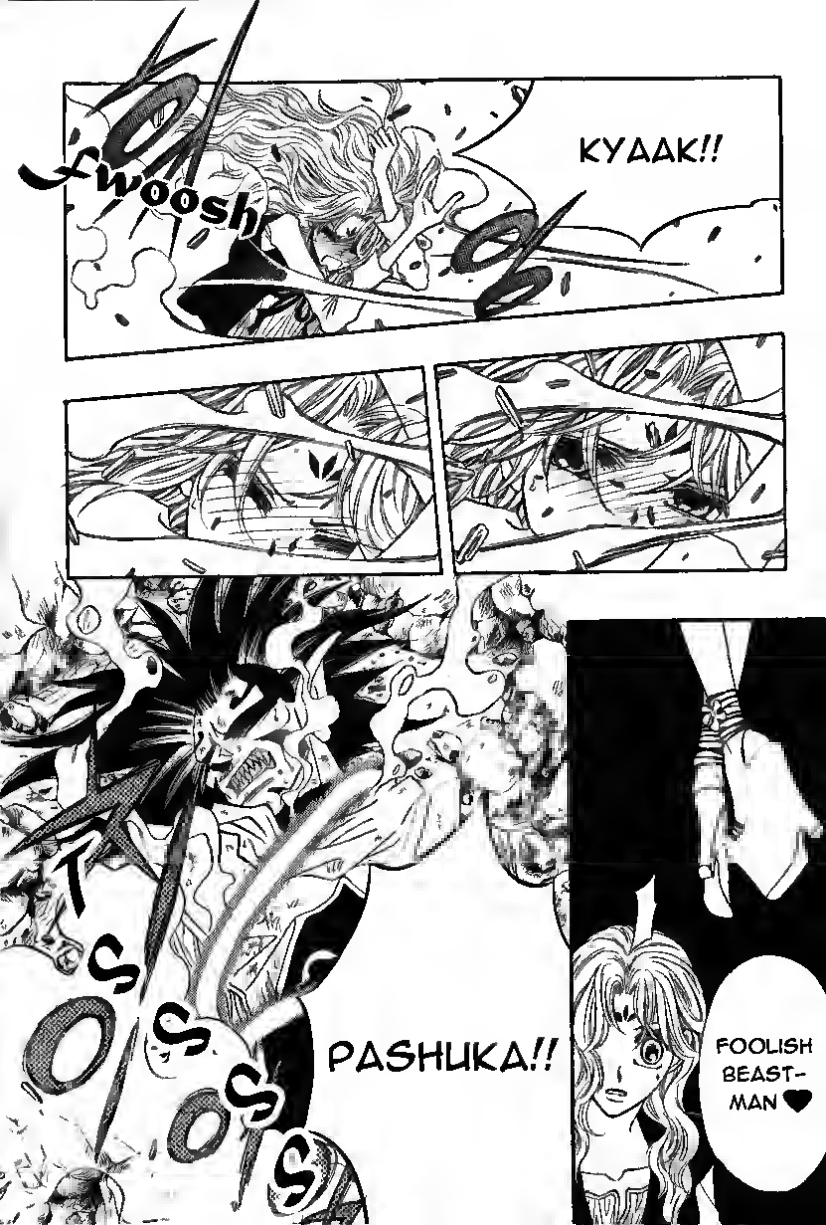
NOTE: PASHUKA IS WHISPERING THIS →

I AM PASHUKA, A WARRIOR OF KANTARA!!
YOU DARE!!
FWIP
!!
SWIPS
ONE OF THE BEASTMAN RACE!?

THAT'S THE DIRECTION OF THE VILLAGE...
HM? WHAT'S WITH THE SMOKE?
GRRRRR
IT CAN'T BE...
GOD DAMNIT!!

PASHUKA!!
DIE, WITCH!!


BAM


Fwoosh
KYAAK!!
TSSOSSOSS
PASHUKA!!
FOOLISH BEAST-MAN ♥

YOU WON'T BE THAT FOOLISH, WILL YOU?♥ YOUNG LADY♡
..IS IT YOU?
THIS IS WHY I HATE BEASTMEN♡ THEY'RE STUPIDLY PROUD♥ THEY HAVE TO HAVE AN ARM OR A LEG CHOPPED OFF BEFORE THEY LISTEN♡

THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE DEMONS TO THE VILLAGE
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE.
DEMONS COMING INTO THE VILLAGE PROTECTED BY TARA...
THIS CHILD...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
FOR WHAT REASON?

YOU HURT PASHUKA. DESTROYED THE VILLAGE.
EVERYONE IS CRYING WITH PAIN... CAN'T YOU EVEN HEAR IT?
POWER FROM THE EMBLEM ON HER FOREHEAD... SPIRITS...

A RUKIA?
ARE YOU REALLY...!?
LET THEM GO!!
COULD YOU BE...
MISS HARU! PASHUKA!!
LUKE-SSHI!!
...
...I MUST... MOVE... MY BODY!

HMPH! YOU AGAIN!!
MOVE ASIDE, WITCH!!
PLEASE!!
ESPER

DASHIKAA!!!

JUMP
TWOOP
MISS HARU!!
AHAHAHAHA!♥♡ THIS MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY♥ AN ELEMENTAL SPIRIT, AND EVEN A RUKIA♡ THAT PERSON WILL BE HAPPY♥
SWOOSH

KYAAAAAA
AAAAAK!!!!
QUIET.

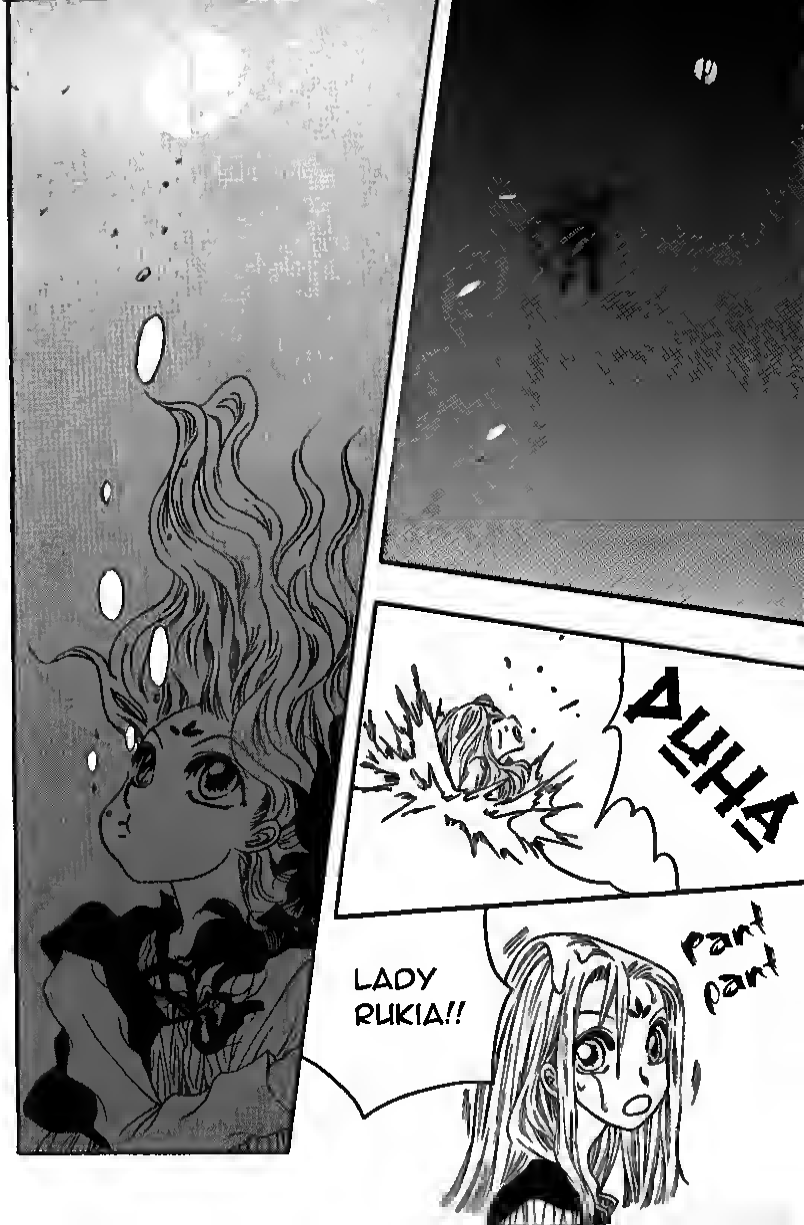
I AM LUKE SUWARA OF THE BLUE MOON CLAN.
IF YOU WISH TO PASS, THEN YOU MUST KILL ME FIRST.

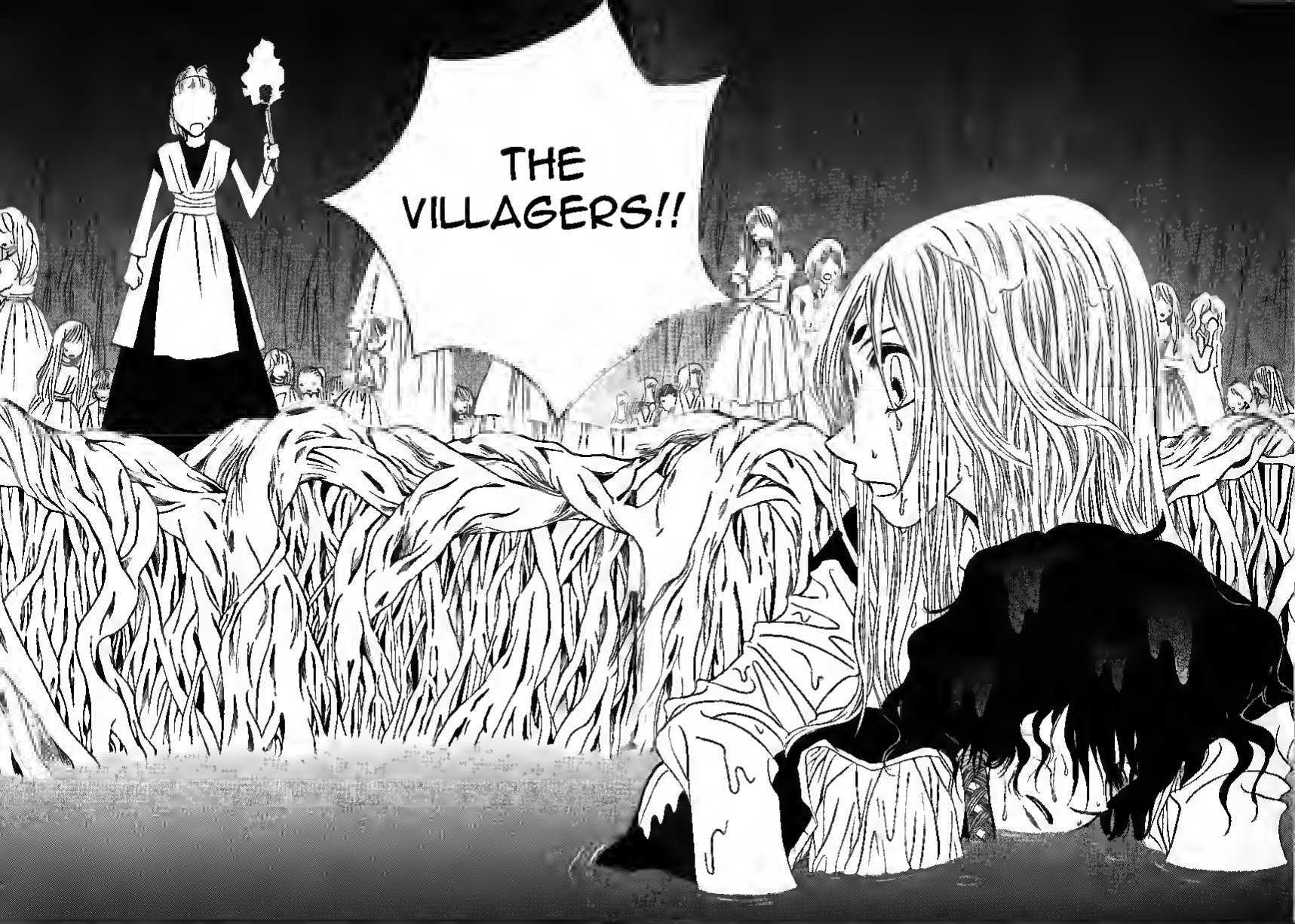
ATTACK, WITCH.

KYAAAAAAK!! I'VE GONE CRAZY! I'M CRAZY! I MUST BE CRAZY!!!
WA

WHAT WAS I THINKING, JUMPING OFF A CLIFF TO COMMIT SUICIDE.. I MEAN, RESCUE SOMEONE!? THEY SAY IT'S BETTER TO BE ALIVE EVEN IF YOU'RE LIVING IN A DUMPSTER. BUT THIS IS A REALLY LONG FALL. I'VE BEEN TALKING FOR TWO PANELS BUT I STILL DON'T SEE THE GROUND. JUST HOW MANY METERS IS THIS?
THIS IS BORING I WANT TO JUST HIT THE GROUND ALREADY. IT'S PITCH BLACK SO I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHETHER WE'RE FLYING OR FALLING ANYMORE
HMM? WHAT'S THAT? A MOON?
A MIRROR?

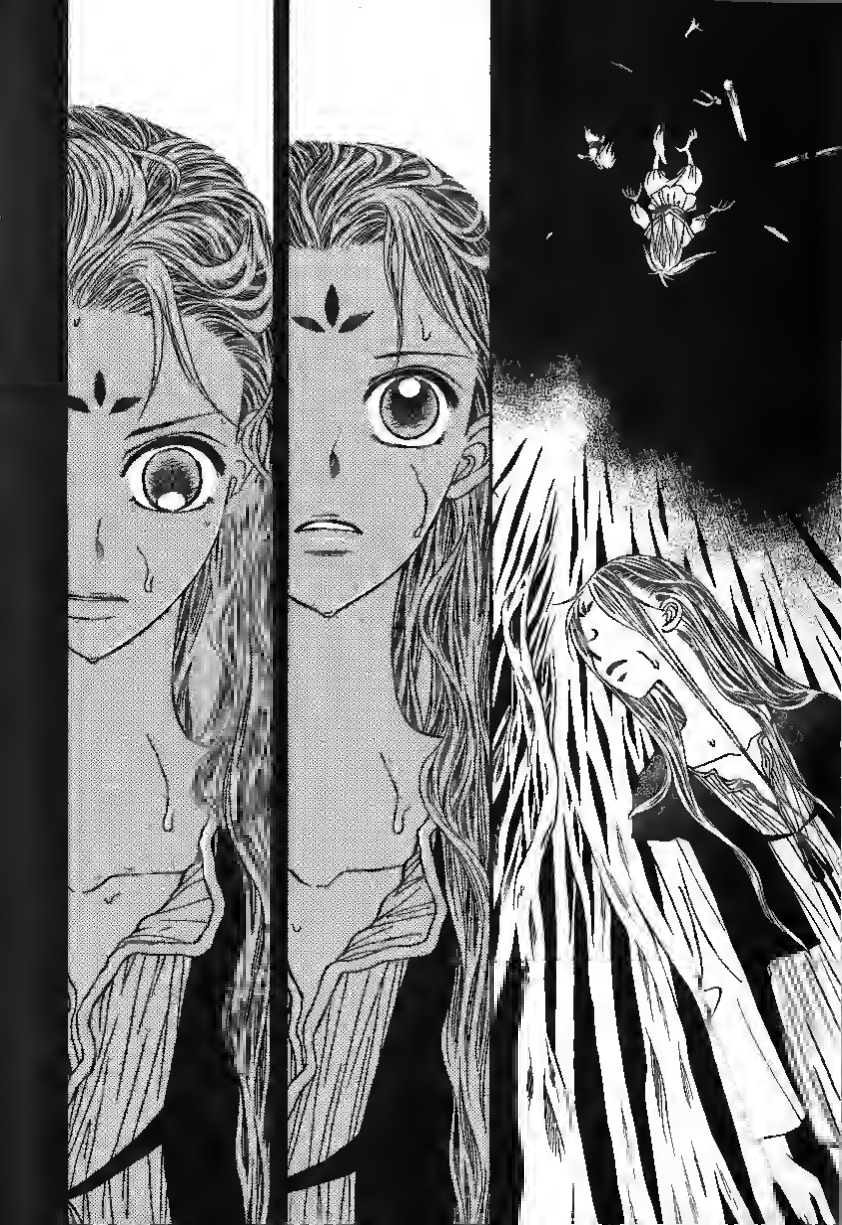
SPLASH!
ACK!!
IT WAS WATER!!


SPLASH
LADY RUKIA!!
pant pant


THE VILLAGERS!!

PASHUKA'S HURT! DOES ANYBODY KNOW HOW TO PERFORM FIRST AID?
OH! YOUNG MASTER!! GRANDMOTHER YUNA! PLEASE COME QUICKLY, MASTER PASHUKA IS HURT!! ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE, LADY RUKIA?
I'M FINE, BUT UP THERE, LUKE-SSH! IS...
IT REALLY IS YOU, LADY RUKIA! WE WERE SHOCKED WHEN YOU FELL FROM ABOVE.
SPLASH

AHHHHH!!
LIGUE!!
LIGUE!
LIGUE!
LIGUE!!
Splash
WAKE UP, LIGUE!
Splash
SPLASH
SOB
NO...
LIGUE...



Splash
Splash
Splash
Splash
Splash

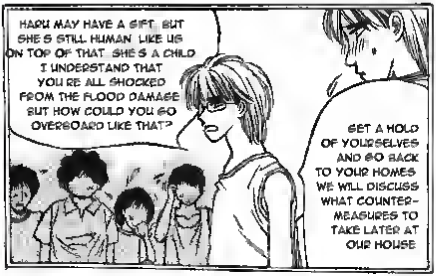
Nooo!!! Tunah!! younger brother! My younger brother!!
*Oppa!! No it can't be!!! No...
Hakim!! No! My son!!!
*T/N OPPA IS HOW GIRLS REFER TO THEIR OLDER BROTHERS
YOU'RE A RUKIA! ONE BLESSED BY THE SPIRIT KING!
..THE WITCH KILLED ALL OF THESE PEOPLE!?
HOW COULD SHE...!? WHY..!?
GRAB
SAVE HIM!!
LIGUE...MY YOUNGER BROTHER... SAVE HIM! LADY RUKIA!! SAVE HIM!!

LISA! LIGUE DIED BRAVELY IN BATTLE! ARE YOU GOING TO SULLY HIS NAME AS A WARRIOR!?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT! I WANT MY BROTHER ALIVE!
SAVE HIM! YOU CAN DO IT, CAN'T YOU!? YOU'RE A RUKIA! I'LL SERVE YOU FOREVER, SO JUST SAVE MY YOUNGER BROTHER!!
LADY HARU! THE *ANCESTRAL SEA CEREMONY! DRIVE THE TYPHOON AWAY! YOU CAN DO IT, CAN'T YOU!? LADY HARU!!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING RIGHT NOW?

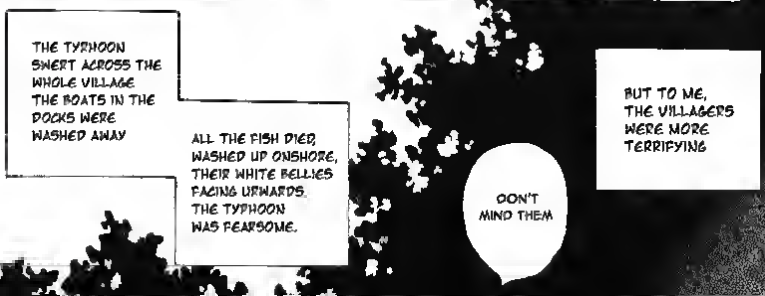
*ANCESTRAL SEA CEREMONY: A CEREMONIAL RITE TO THE OCEAN DIETY TO PRAY FOR SAFETY AND PROSPERITY. OFTEN DONE IN FISHING VILLAGES

Y, YOUNG MASTER...
OPPA

THIS DISGUSTS ME. ARE YOU REALLY ADULTS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? SHE'S ONLY SIX!
WE AREN'T GOING TO MAKE HER COMPLETE A COMPLEX RITE LIKE THE ANCESTRAL SEA CEREMONY! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER!!
S, BUT YOUNG MASTER! IF THE TYPHOON STRIKES AGAIN TOMORROW, IT'LL REALLY BE THE END...
THEN TIE THE BOATS AND PREPARE!
CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING YOURSELVES?


HARU MAY HAVE A GIFT, BUT SHE'S STILL HUMAN. LIKE US ON TOP OF THAT, SHE'S A CHILD. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE ALL SHOCKED FROM THE FLOOD DAMAGE, BUT HOW COULD YOU GO OVERBOARD LIKE THAT?
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELVES AND GO BACK TO YOUR HOMES. WE WILL DISCUSS WHAT COUNTER-MEASURES TO TAKE LATER AT OUR HOUSE

W, WE'RE SORRY 'BOUT ALL THIS... WHAT WITH BOATS UPTURNED AND ROOFS FLYING OFF, WE MUST O' LOST OUR MINDS FOR A BIT. WE'RE SORRY, MISS
FORGIVE US IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN
SUMMER, THAT YEAR


THE TYPHOON SWEPT ACROSS THE WHOLE VILLAGE. THE BOATS IN THE DOCKS WERE WASHED AWAY
ALL THE FISH DIED, WASHED UP ONSHORE, THEIR WHITE BELLIES FACING UPWARDS. THE TYPHOON WAS FEARSOME.
DON'T MIND THEM
BUT TO ME, THE VILLAGERS WERE MORE TERRIFYING

UP UNTIL THE YEAR BEFORE LAST... MOTHER DID IT ALL. NOW YOU'RE HER SUCCESSOR, SO THEY'RE DEPENDING ON YOU
AND THAT'S THE JOB OF THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY... DID THEY UPSET YOU?
Shake shake
...YOU'RE A GOOD KID... BUT DON'T RESTRAIN YOURSELF TOO MUCH. I DON'T WANT YOU TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF
IT'S OKAY. I STILL CAN'T DO ANCESTRAL RITES, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THE RAIN STOP, ANYWAYS
...BUT MY PRIDE IS HURT
EVEN THOUGH I'M HERE, EVERYBODY'S JUST LOOKING FOR MOM! JUST WAIT! I'LL PRACTICE ARCHERY EVERYDAY AND SHOW THEM!

OH MAN! YOU'RE SO CUTE!! WHERE COULD WE HAVE FOUND SUCH A PRECIOUS THING?
GLOMP
Kyak
"ARE YOU CRAZY? TO TAKE CARE OF OTHER PEOPLE WHEN I CAN BARELY LOOK AFTER MYSELF?"
"WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE IDIOTS INTERFERING WITH OTHERS' PROBLEMS WHEN THEY CAN'T EVEN HANDLE THEIR OWN. YOU'RE PLENTY FOR THAT."
"NEXT TIME THAT HAPPENS, JUST HIGH TAIL IT WITHOUT EVER LOOKING BACK. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO STAY ALIVE!"

...BUT I CAN'T HELP IT.
FORGIVE HER, LADY RUKIA SHE JUST LOST HERSELF FOR A MOMENT... LADY RUKIA?
"....."
"IDIOT. YOU'RE THE MOST SELFLESS IDIOT I'VE MET.

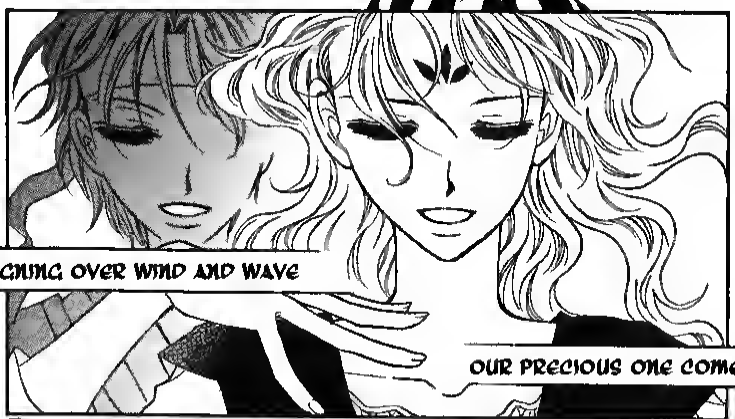
LONG WINDS, LOW WINDS, SWIFT WINDS

HIGH WINDS, WHIRLING WINDS, STRONG WINDS

REIGNING OVER WIND AND WAVE HE COMES

SO RAISE THE POLE

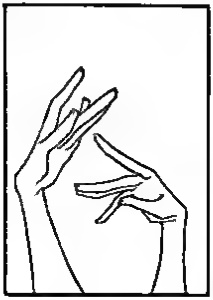
SO RING THE BELL



REIGNING OVER WIND AND WAVE

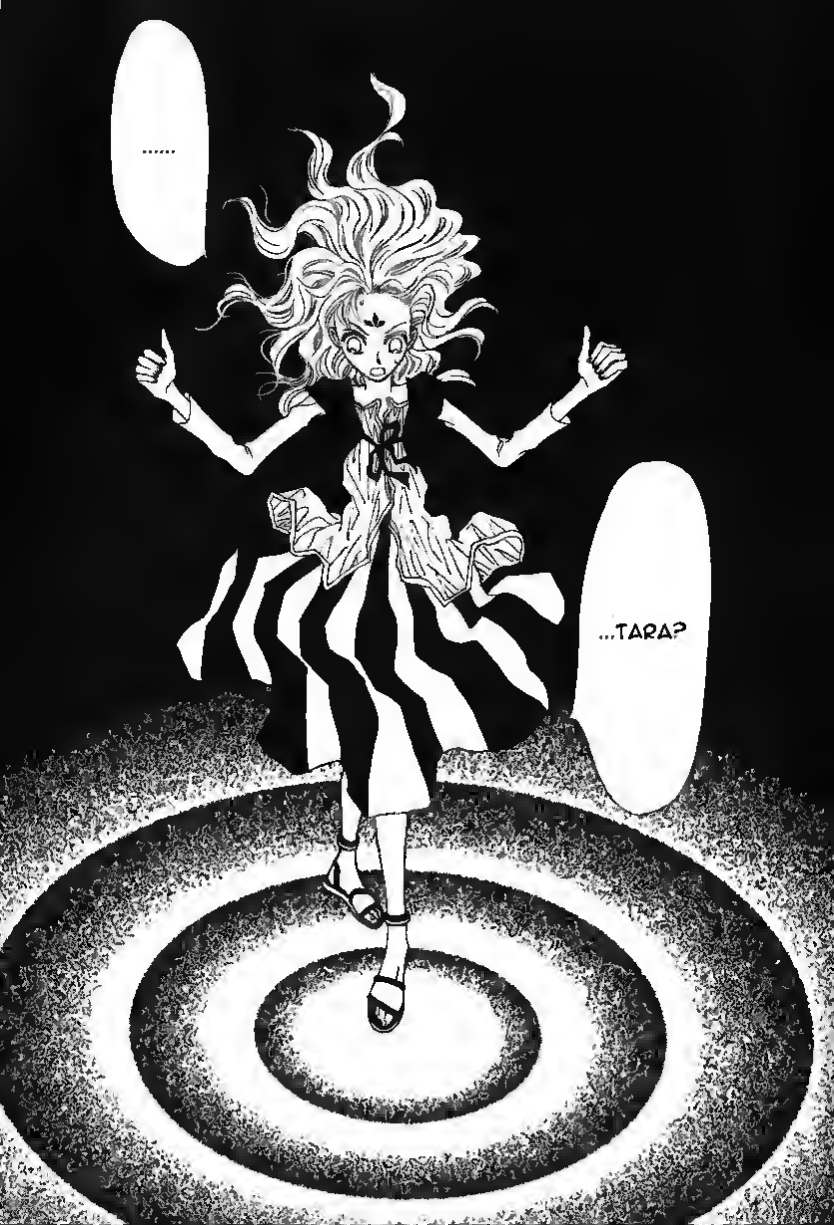
OUR PRECIOUS ONE COMES

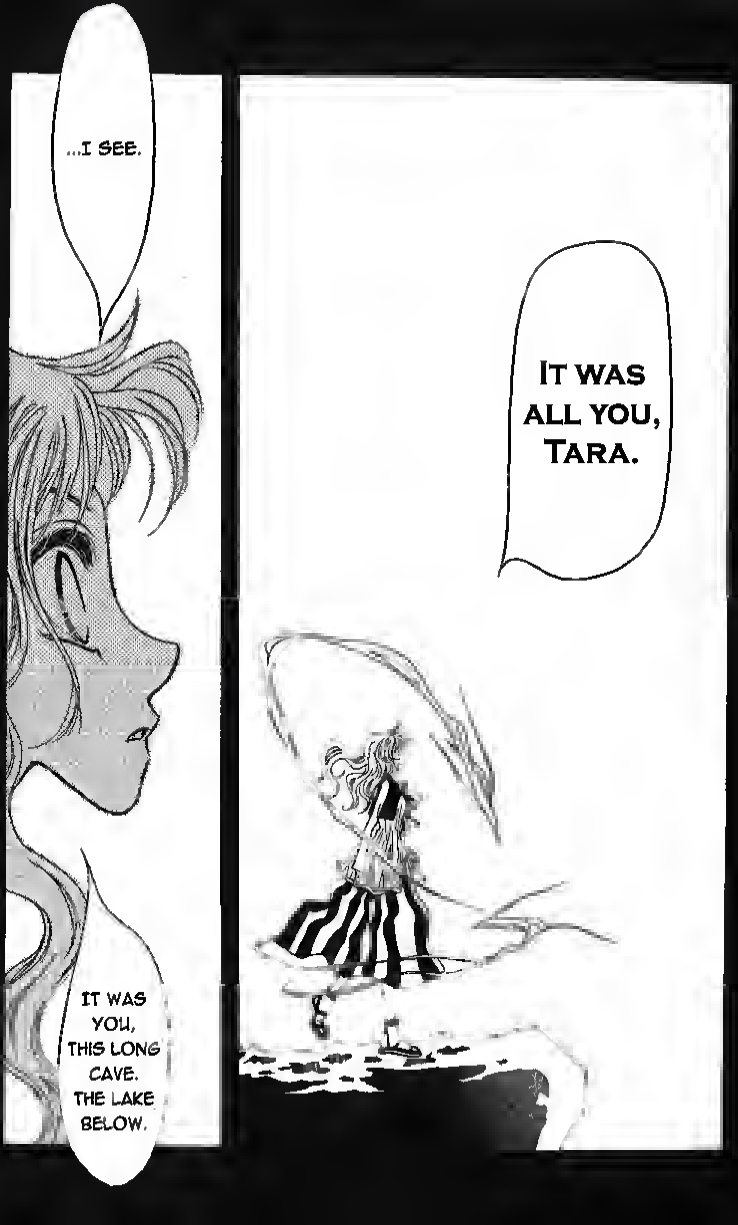
FROM FAR ACROSS THE SEA...

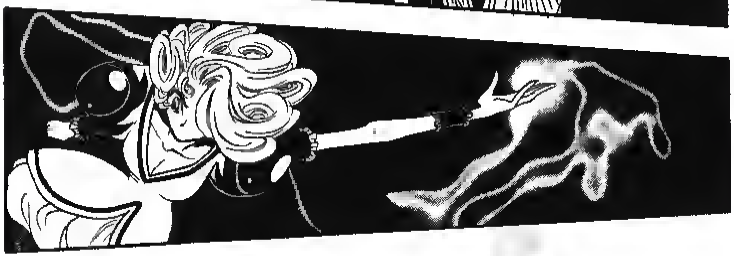


KWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
WH, WHAT IS THIS? WHY IS SHE SUDDENLY...?!
WAS SHE POISONED BY A DEMON?
WHAT DO WE DO?!
H, HARU... STOP...
DON'T! THAT POWER...
COME OUT. REVEAL YOURSELF, TARA.

I NEED YOU.
YOUR LAND
YOUR POWER.
GLOW
APPEAR, TARA!!

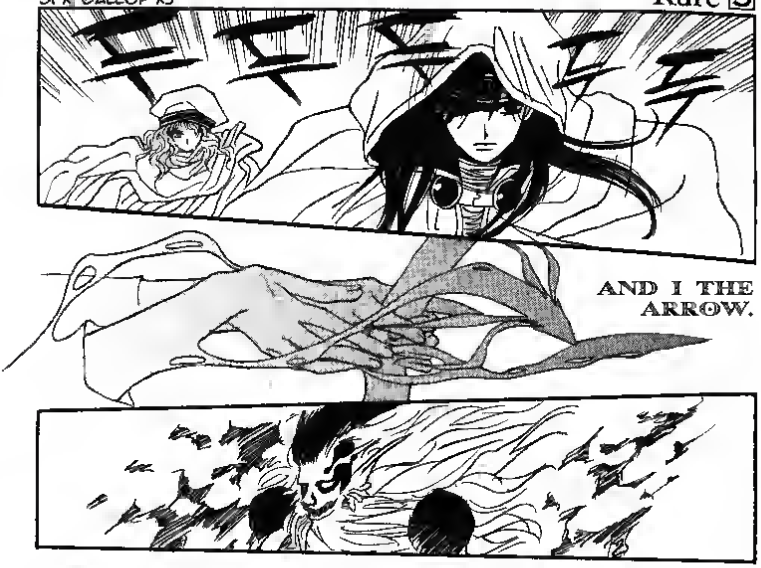

.....
...TARA?

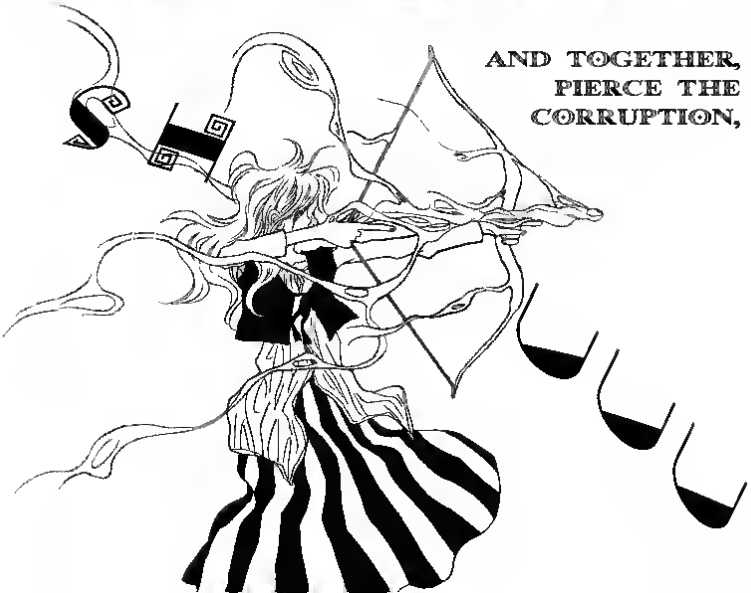

...I SEE.
IT WAS YOU, THIS LONG CAVE. THE LAKE BELOW.
IT WAS ALL YOU, TARA.



MY BOW IS
THE 'DESTROYER
OF DEMONS'

YOU SHALL
BE THE BOW.


AND I THE ARROW.

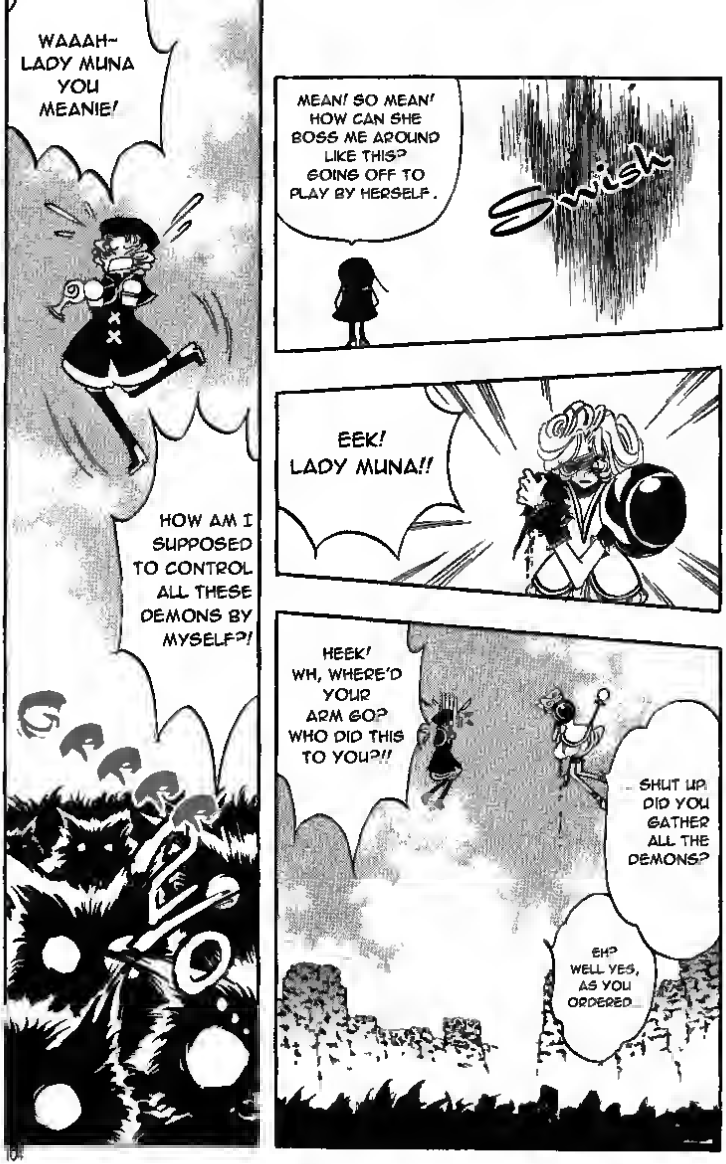

AND TOGETHER, PIERCE THE CORRUPTION,

SFX: FLASH

SWING
Shwing

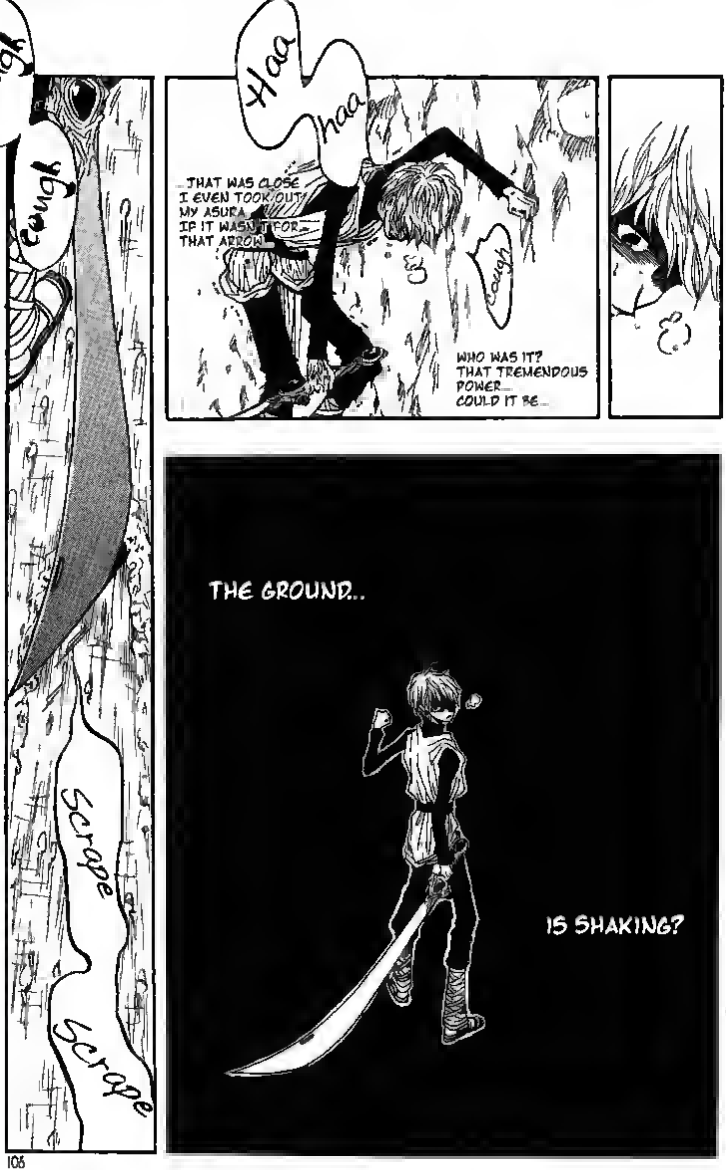
PING
AAAAAA

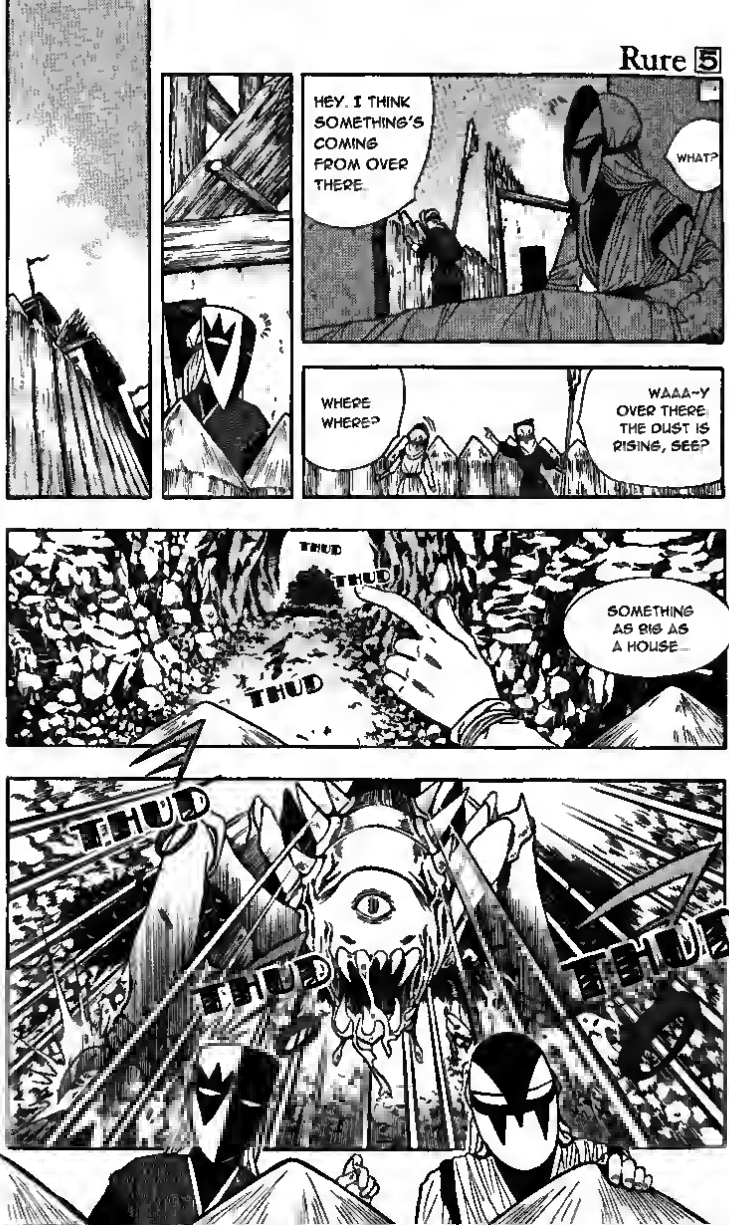
NOW'S THE CHANCE!
Dash
SWING
ATTACK!!
ACK! GUYS, NOT OVER THERE! COME BACK!!

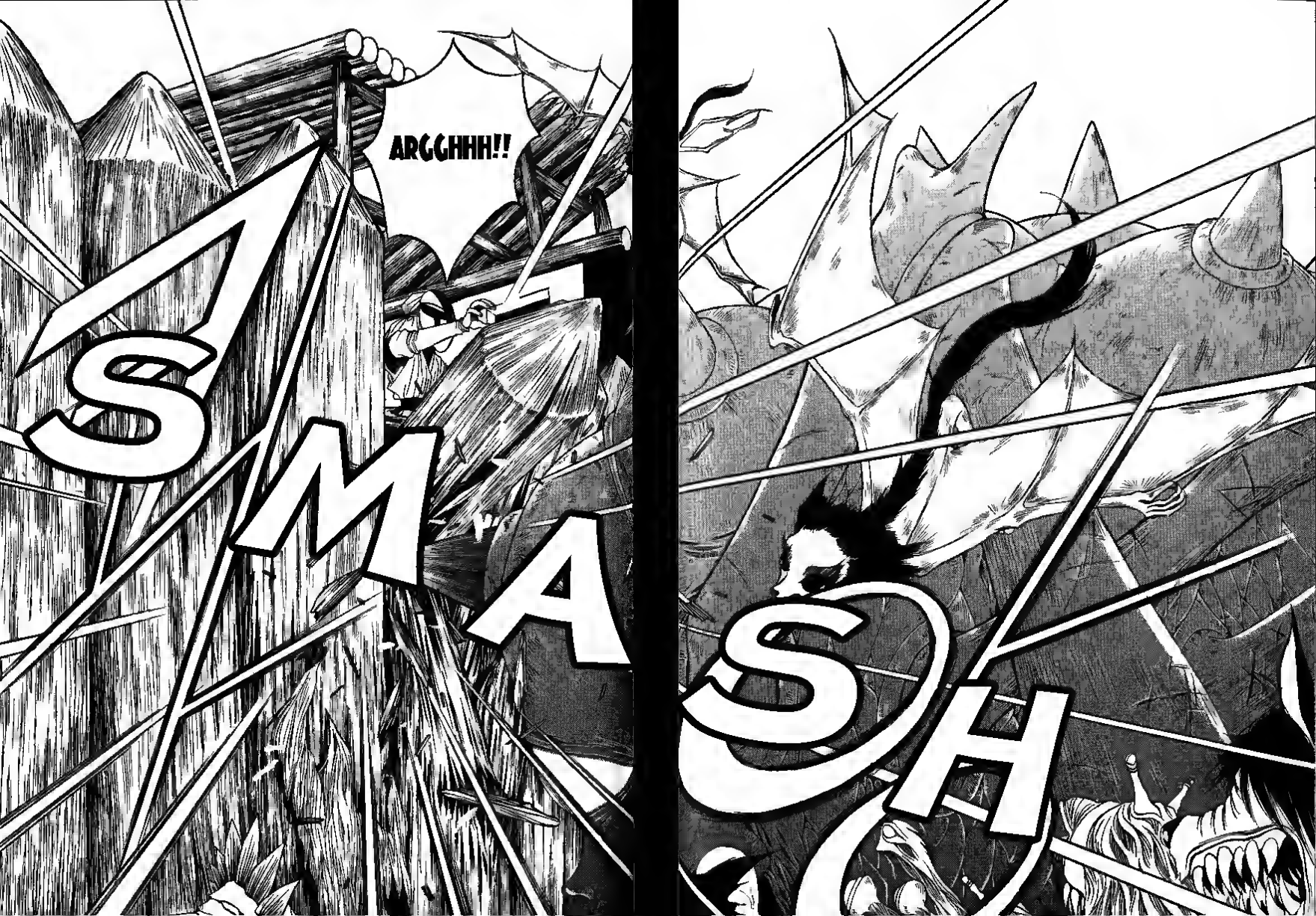

WAAAH~ LADY MUNA YOU MEANIE!
MEAN! SO MEAN! HOW CAN SHE BOSS ME AROUND LIKE THIS? GOING OFF TO PLAY BY HERSELF.
Swish
EEK! LADY MUNA!!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CONTROL ALL THESE DEMONS BY MYSELF?!
GRRR
HEEK! WH, WHERE'D YOUR ARM GO? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!!
SHUT UP. DID YOU GATHER ALL THE DEMONS?
EH? WELL YES, AS YOU ORDERED

DAMN IT ALL! TO MEET ONE OF THE BLUE MOON CLAN HERE IN XANTARA! AND ONE OF *ASURA'S WARRIORS AT THAT!
HOW DARE HE CUT OFF MY ARM!
LISTEN, MY DEMONS! YOU ARE MY HANDS AND MY FEET!
KILL, BURN AND DESTROY MY ENEMIES!
I, MUNA, THE SORCERER, COMMAND YOU!
KILL THEM!

*ASURA: LIFE'S SWORD THAT ONLY ONE OF THE BLUE MOON CLAN WHO HAS TRAINED CAN USE. IT CAN SLICE THROUGH ANYTHING, INCLUDING MAGIC. BUT THE BLADE ITSELF BECOMES THE LIFE OF THE WIELDER, SO IF THE BLADE BREAKS, THEN THE WIELDER DIES AS WELL.

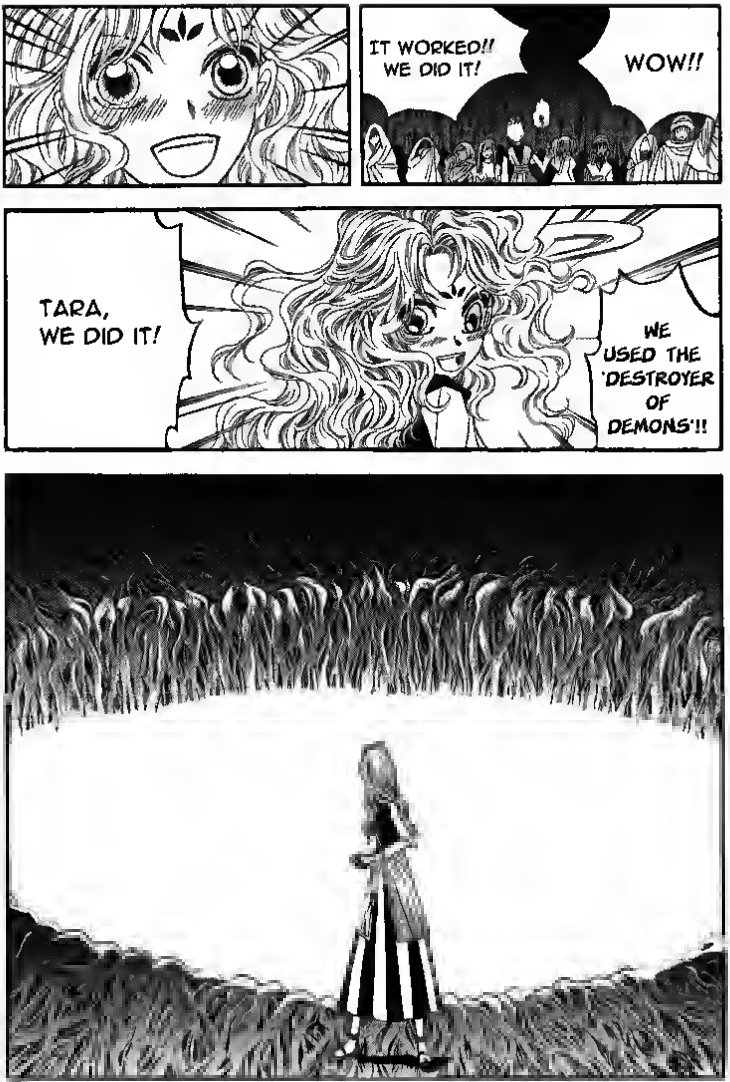

Cough
Cough
Scrape
Scrape
Haa
haa
...THAT WAS CLOSE
I EVEN TOOK OUT
MY ASURA
IF IT WASN'T FOR
THAT ARROW...
Cough
WHO WAS IT?
THAT TREMENDOUS
POWER...
COULD IT BE...
THE GROUND..
IS SHAKING?

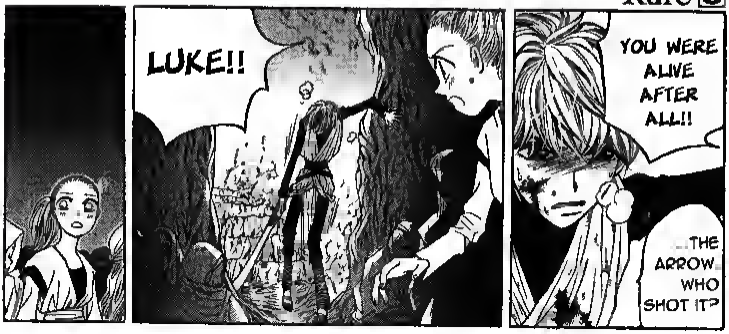

HEY. I THINK SOMETHING'S COMING FROM OVER THERE.
WHAT?
WHERE WHERE?
WAAA~Y OVER THERE. THE DUST IS RISING, SEE?
THUD
THUD
THUD
SOMETHING AS BIG AS A HOUSE...
THUD
THUD
THUD

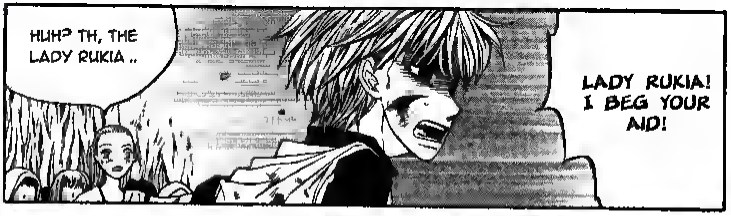

ARGGHHH!!
SMASH

THAT'S RIGHT!!! TRAMPLE THEM LIKE THE BUGS THEY ARE!!!
DESTROY THEM!!
GRIND THEM TO DUST!
♫
♪
INSOLENT KANTARA! ARROGANT BLUE MOON CLAN!
HOW DARE YOU DAMAGE THIS BODY! I'LL KILL YOU ALL!!
UAAA-AA!!!!

IDIOT!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A KANTARA!?
ARCHERS, HURRY!
M, MU-SHUK!!
THE FORT IS STILL USABLE! WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP IT STRONG UNTIL REINFORCE-MENTS RRIVE!
O, OKAY!!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BIG ONE.
AH
DID...
DID IT WORK?


IT WORKED!! WE DID IT!
WOW!!
TARA, WE DID IT!
WE USED THE 'DESTROYER OF DEMONS'!!


LUKE!!
YOU WERE ALIVE AFTER ALL!!
...THE ARROW... WHO SHOT IT?

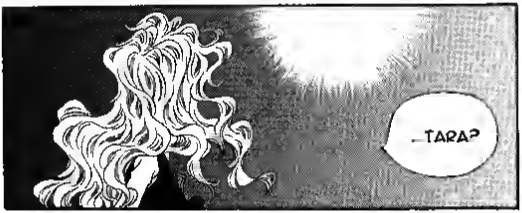

HUH? TH, THE LADY RUKIA ..
LADY RUKIA! I BEG YOUR AID!

A HOARD OF DEMONS IS HEADED THIS WAY! PLEASE SHOOT MORE OF THOSE ARROWS!
...
...I CAN'T

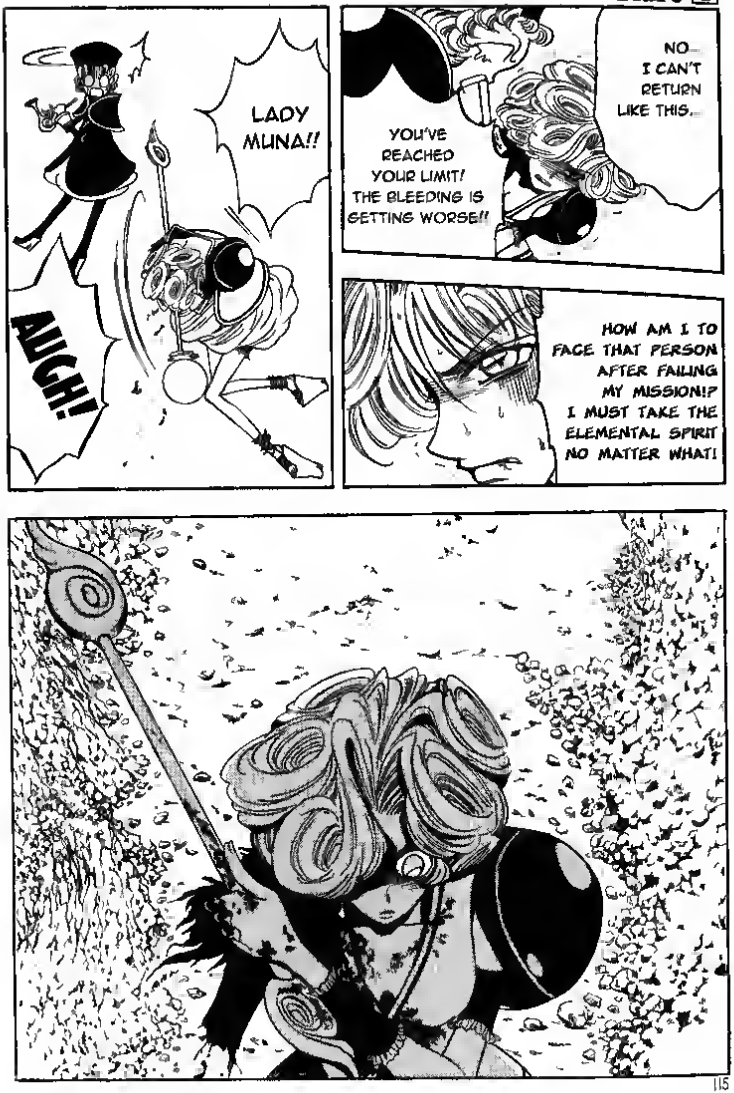
TARA WON'T ANSWER...

EVERY SECOND IS LOST TIME! PLEASE...
...I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE

A GLOW OF


...TARA?

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR! THERE'S ONLY THREE OF THEM! DESTROY THEM NOW!!


LADY MUNA!!
AUGH!
NO... I CAN'T RETURN LIKE THIS...
YOU'VE REACHED YOUR LIMIT! THE BLEEDING IS GETTING WORSE!!
HOW AM I TO FACE THAT PERSON AFTER FAILING MY MISSION!? I MUST TAKE THE ELEMENTAL SPIRIT NO MATTER WHAT!

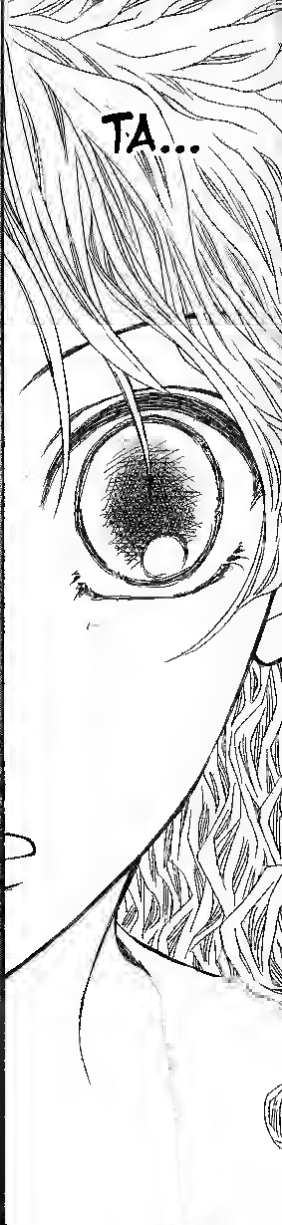
CHE! PERSIS-TANT THINGS!
SHING
SLICE

FU...

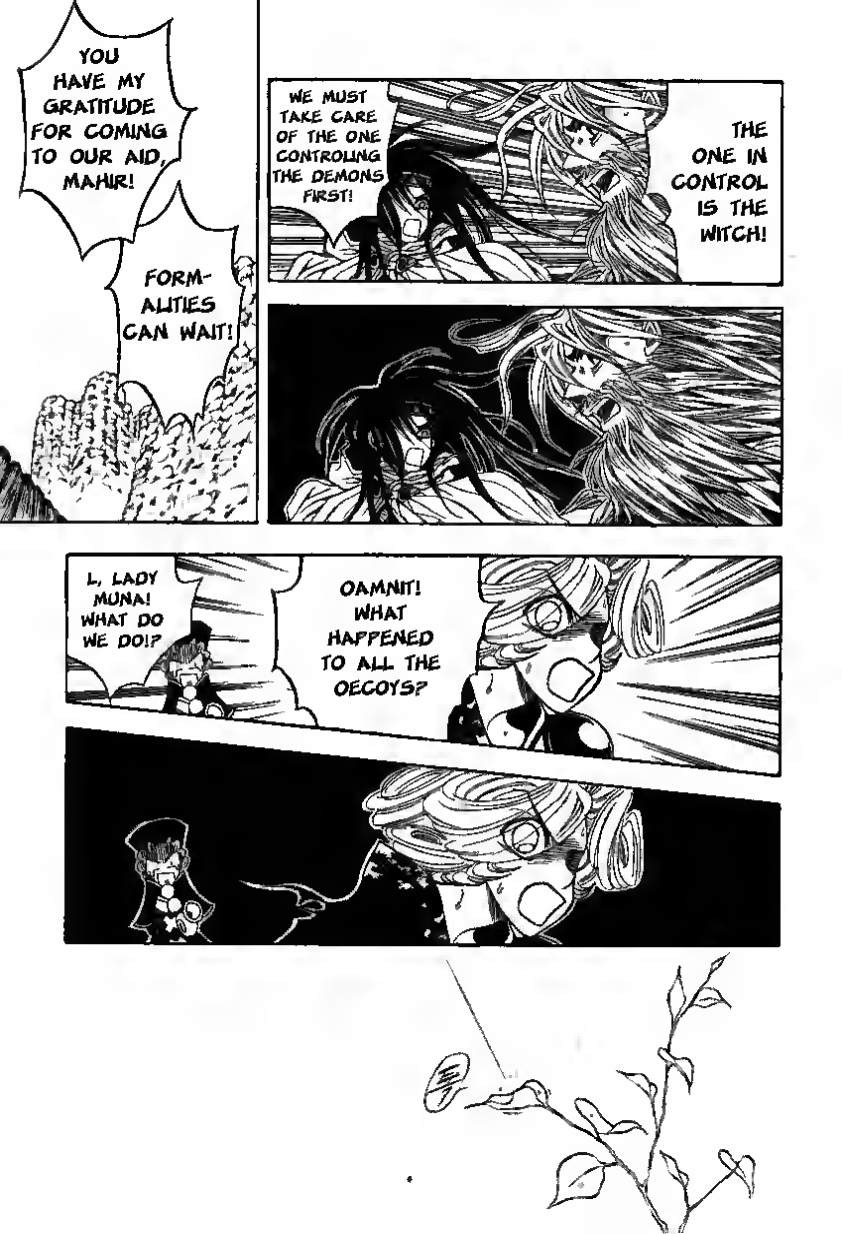
ASURA? THE BLUE MOON CLAN AGAIN?

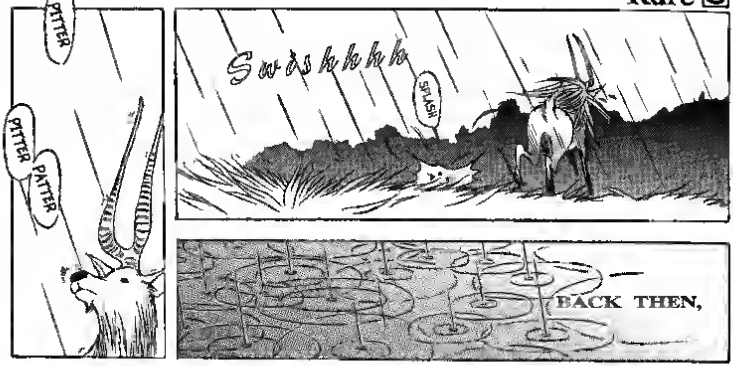
SWOOSH

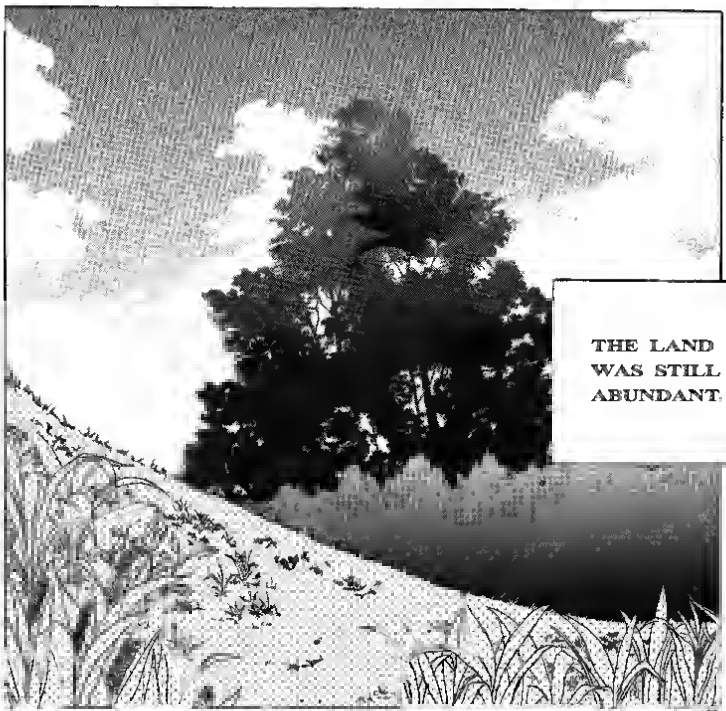
KANTARA!! YOU'VE RETURNED!!
O BRAVE KANTARAN WARRIORS! THE ENEMY IS BEFORE YOU!
ANNIHILATE THEM!!

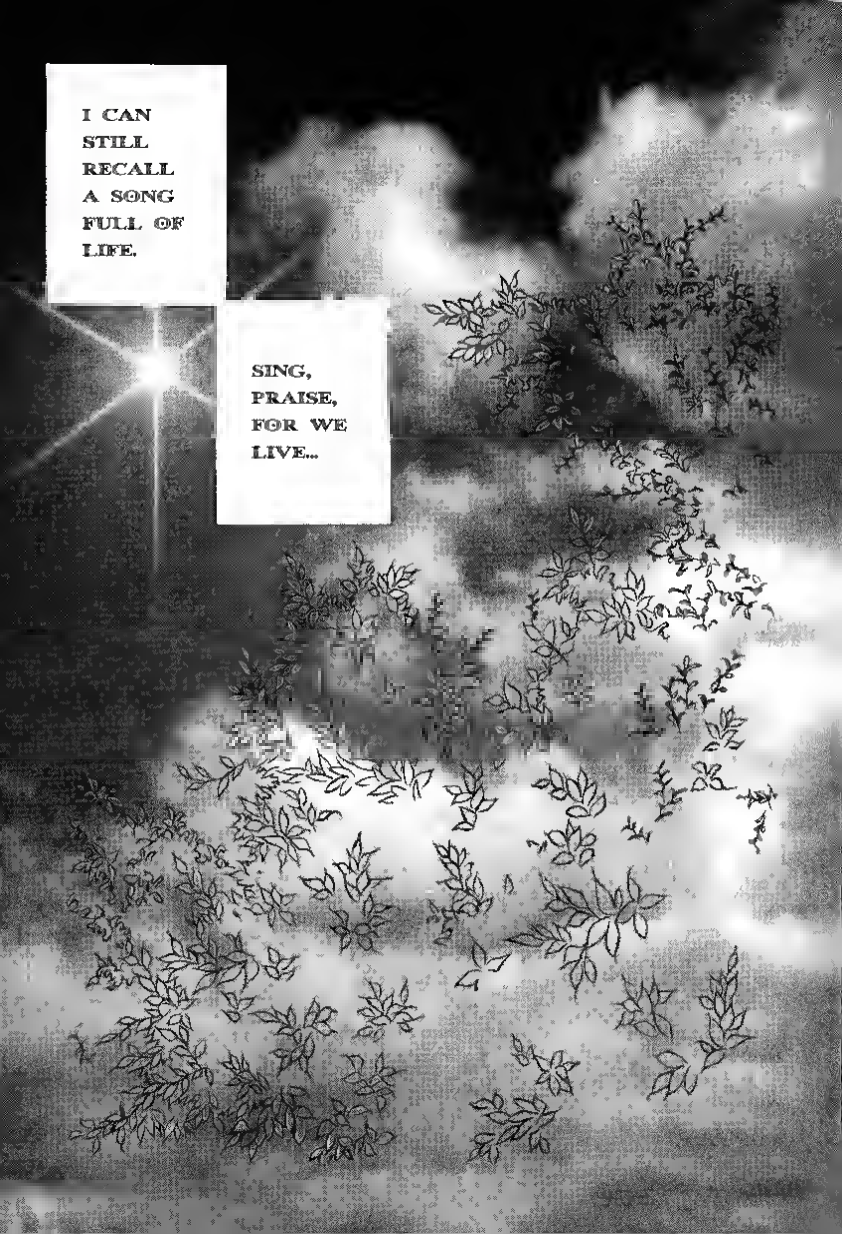
TARA?
IT'S YOU, RIGHT?

TA...

IT BEGAN WITH A
SMALL SAPLING.

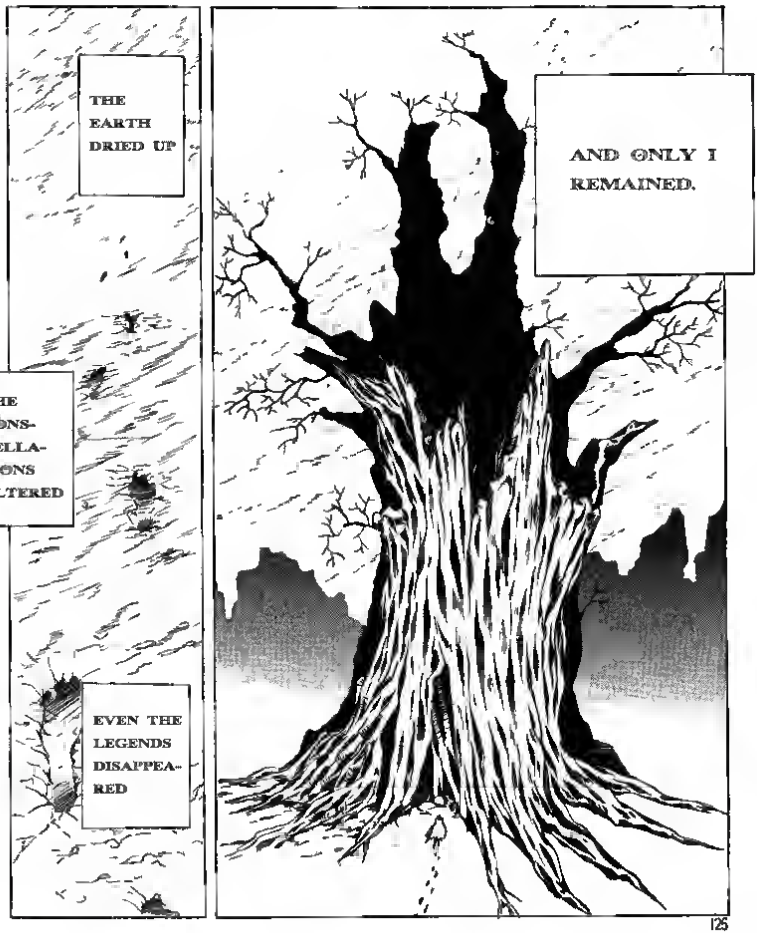

YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE FOR COMING TO OUR AID, MAHIR!
FORM-ALITIES CAN WAIT!
WE MUST TAKE CARE OF THE ONE CONTROLING THE DEMONS FIRST!
THE ONE IN CONTROL IS THE WITCH!
L, LADY MUNA! WHAT DO WE DO!?
OAMNIT! WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE OECOYS?

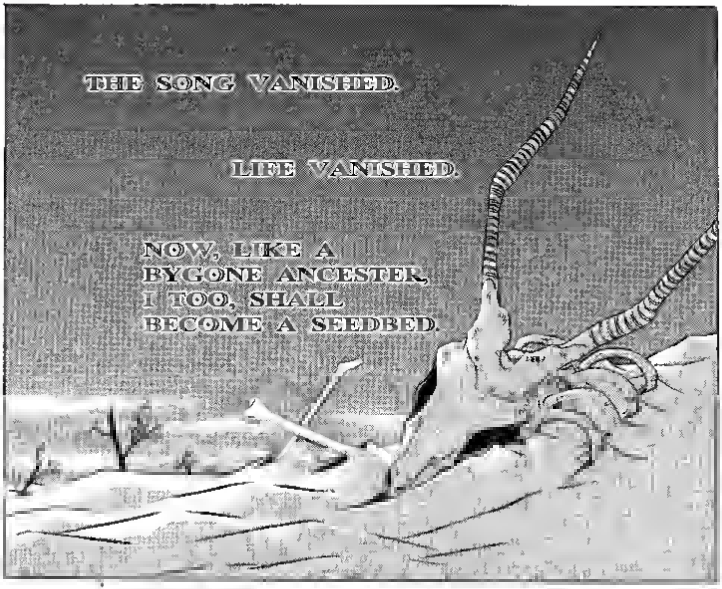

PITTER
PITTER
PATTER
Swishhhh
SPLASH
BACK THEN,

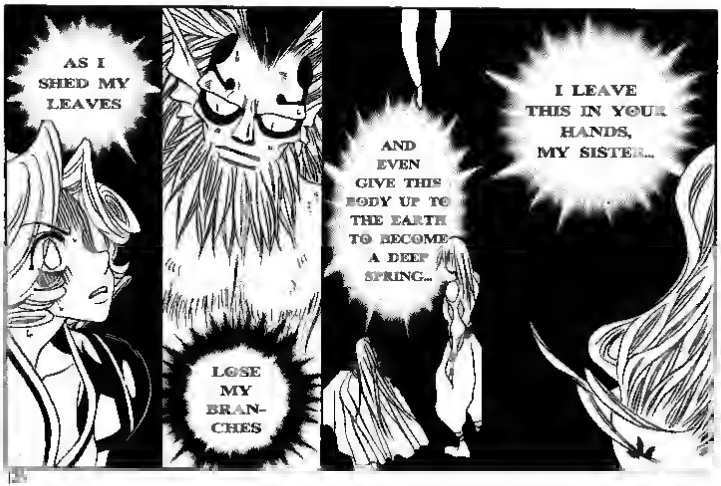

THE LAND WAS STILL ABUNDANT.


I CAN STILL RECALL A SONG FULL OF LIFE.
SING, PRAISE, FOR WE LIVE...

HOWEVER,
SINK


THE EARTH DRIED UP
THE CONS-TELLA-TIONS ALTERED
EVEN THE LEGENDS DISAPPEA-RED
AND ONLY I REMAINED.


THE SONG VANISHED.
LIFE VANISHED.
NOW, LIKE A BYGONE ANCESTER, I TOO, SHALL BECOME A SEEDBED.


AS I SHED MY LEAVES
LOSE MY BRANCHES
AND EVEN GIVE THIS BODY UP TO THE EARTH TO BECOME A DEEP SPRING...
I LEAVE THIS IN YOUR HANDS, MY SISTER...

THESE ENDLESS MEMORIES! THESE ALL BELONG TO YOU, TARA?
WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME THIS? AS IF YOU'RE SAYING GOODBYE FOREVER...

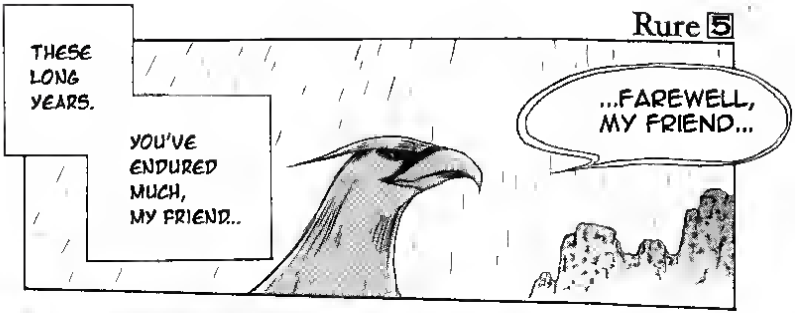
W...
WAIT!!
NO...
PLEASE
DON'T
LEAVE!!
Flash
TARA!!

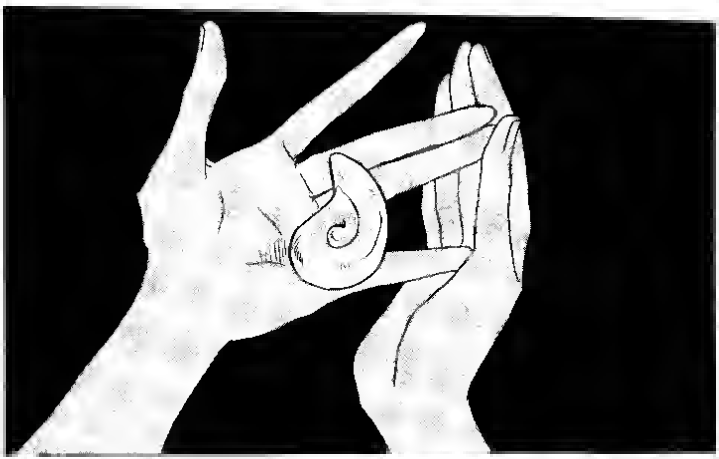
THIS IS UNMISTAKABLY THE POWER OF AN ELEMENTAL SPIRIT!!
HAHA-HAHA!! FINALLY! I'VE FINALLY FOUND IT!
NOW-!!
Stab
LADY MUNA!!
H...
HOW... DARE ...!!
Flash
YANOK!
HAA
HAA

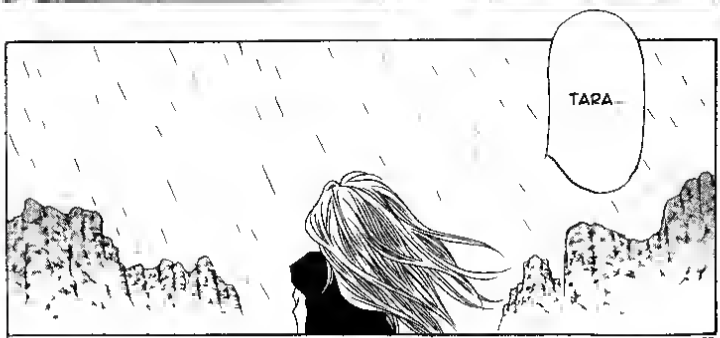
B, BROTHER! THE WITCH DISAPPEARED! WHAT DO WE...
WELL DONE, YANOK!!
EH?
LOOK! NOW THAT THE ONE CONTROLLING THEM HAS GONE, THE DEMONS ARE RETREATING
BUT I WONDER, WHAT THAT LIGHT AT THE END WAS? IT FELT SACRED.
flap
It was the light that shines when an elemental spirit disappears

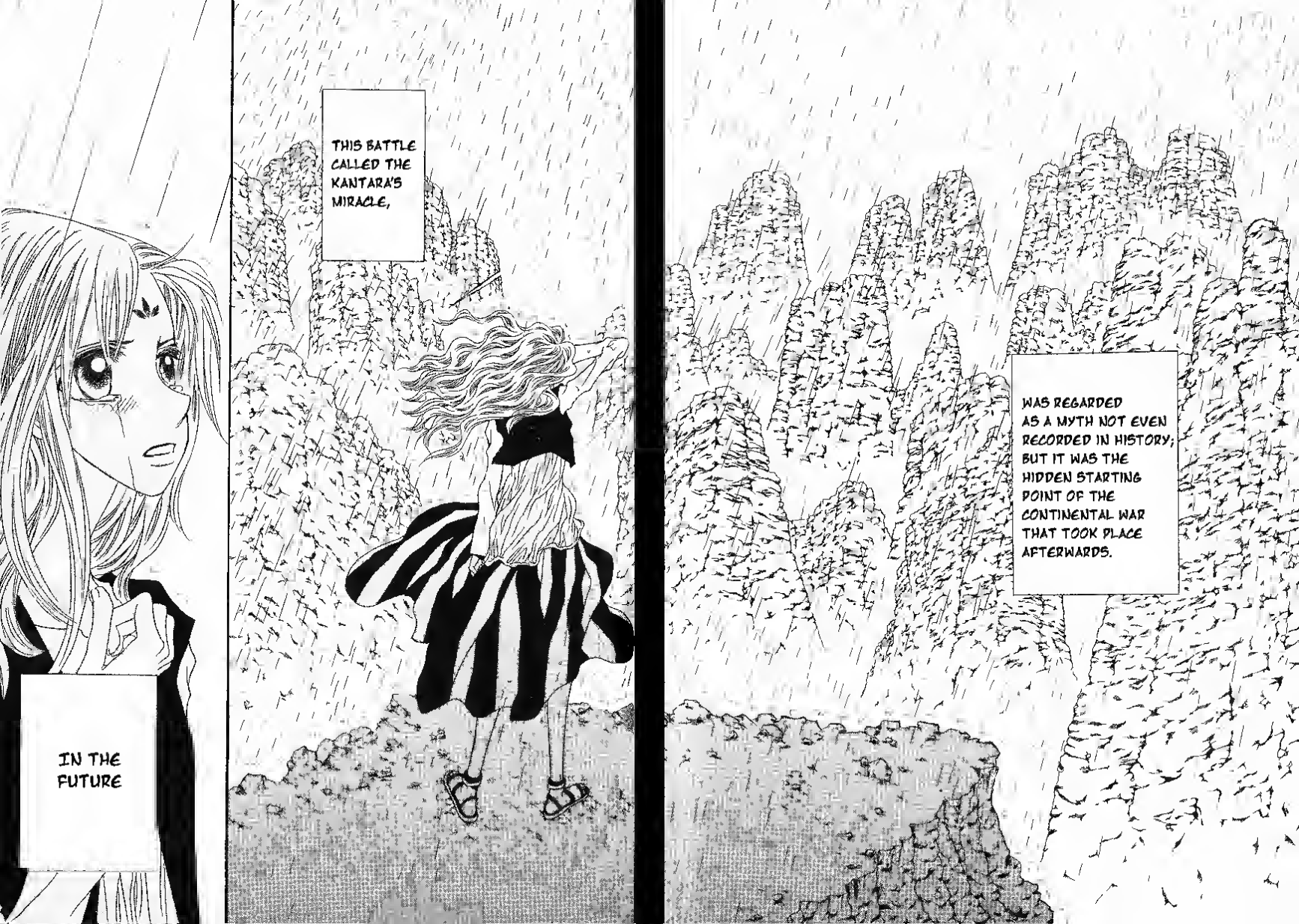
LORD YOKNA!!
Flap
WE THANK YOU FOR AIDING US, RUKIA OF THE SKIES
Oh, Chief... it's been a while.
BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THE DISAPPEARANCE OF AN ELEMENTAL? WAS THERE AN ELEMENTAL SPIRIT IN THIS LAND?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD IT AS WELL, LORD YOKNA!
But of course!
The oldest of them all, known for quietude, the Tree Spirit. Watching over both land and life, undetected.
The wisest, most merciful, holy Tree Spirit. If not for Tara's presence, how could this land ever have life?
Behold, the mercy...

PITTER
PITTER PATTER
RAIN...


THESE LONG YEARS.
YOU'VE ENDURED MUCH, MY FRIEND..
...FAREWELL, MY FRIEND...

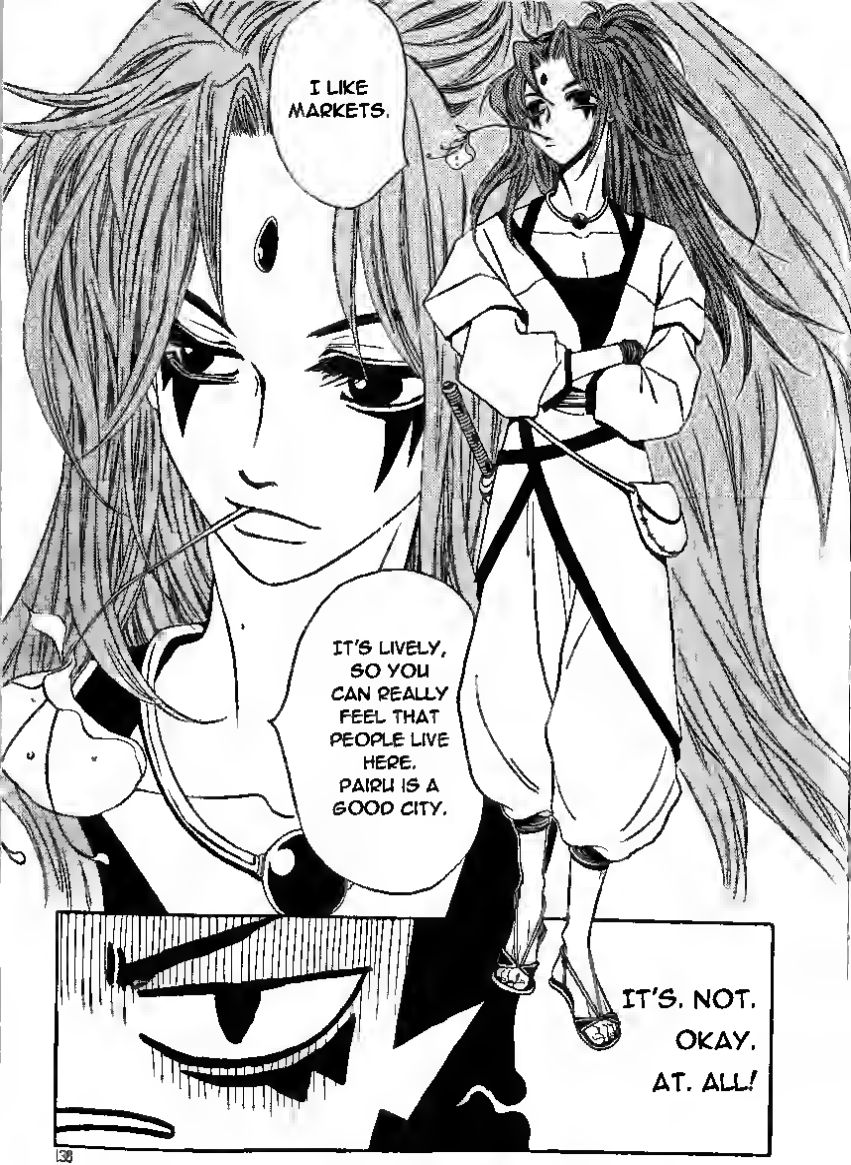


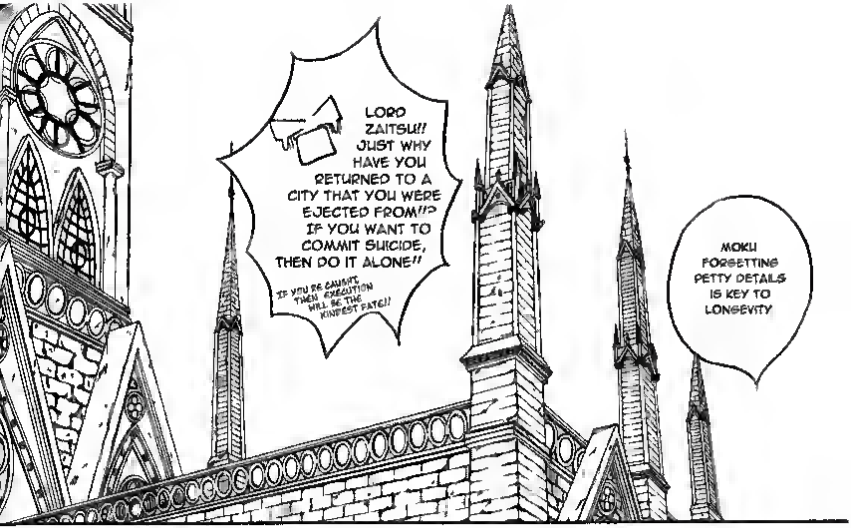

TARA...


IN THE FUTURE
THIS BATTLE CALLED THE KANTARA'S MIRACLE,
WAS REGARDED AS A MYTH NOT EVEN RECORDED IN HISTORY; BUT IT WAS THE HIDDEN STARTING POINT OF THE CONTINENTAL WAR THAT TOOK PLACE AFTERWARDS.

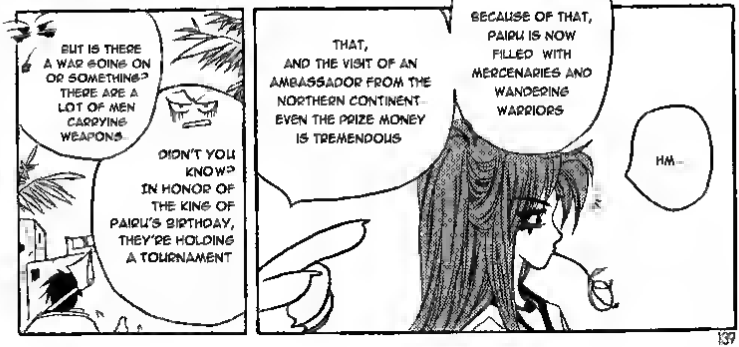
FRESH BREAD FOR SALE!! STRAIGHT FROM THE OVEN! FRESH BREAD!
EXOTIC ITEMS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT FOR SALE!
FISH! FRESH FROM THE RIVER! FISH FOR SALE!
FISH FOR SALE!
ONE HEAD OF LETT-UCE
6 TORU*
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YEAH, THE RUMOR HAS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE
I LIKE THIS PLACE

*TORU: PAIRU'S BASIC CURRENCY, 100 TORU IS 1 PAPU. 1000 PAPU IS ONE KERU. 3 TORU IS ABOUT $1

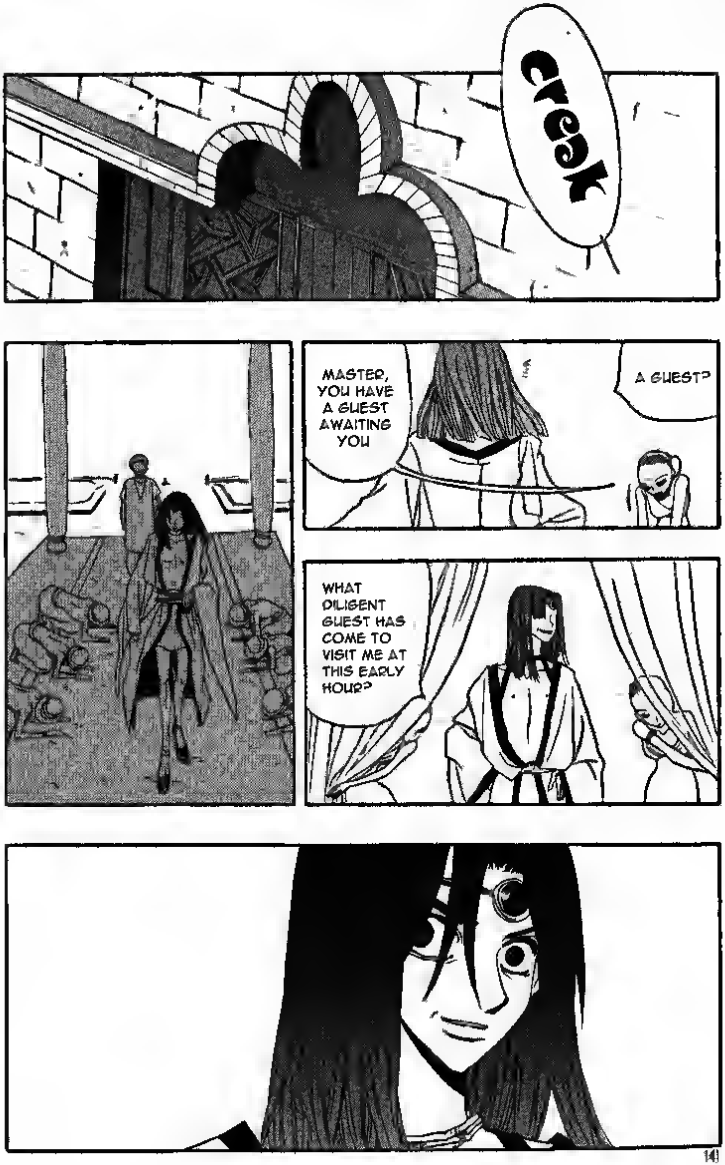

I LIKE MARKETS.
IT'S LIVELY, SO YOU CAN REALLY FEEL THAT PEOPLE LIVE HERE. PAIRU IS A GOOD CITY.
IT'S. NOT. OKAY. AT. ALL!


LORD ZAITSU!! JUST WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED TO A CITY THAT YOU WERE EJECTED FROM!?
IF YOU WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE, THEN DO IT ALONE!!
IF YOU'RE CAUGHT, THEN EXECUTION WILL BE THE KINDEST FATE!!
MOKU FORGETTING PETTY DETAILS IS KEY TO LONGEVITY

"SOB" I CAN'T STAND IT ANY MORE!
MY ONLY MASTER, ALWAYS OFF WANDERING, VENTURING, GALLIVANTING! MY JOB IS A LIVING HELL! "SOB" OH LORD, JUST TAKE ME NOW!!


BUT IS THERE A WAR GOING ON OR SOMETHING? THERE ARE A LOT OF MEN CARRYING WEAPONS
DIDN'T YOU KNOW? IN HONOR OF THE KING OF PAIRU'S BIRTHDAY, THEY'RE HOLDING A TOURNAMENT
THAT, AND THE VISIT OF AN AMBASSADOR FROM THE NORTHERN CONTINENT... EVEN THE PRIZE MONEY IS TREMENDOUS
BECAUSE OF THAT, PAIRU IS NOW FILLED WITH MERCENARIES AND WANDERING WARRIORS
HM—

THE FAMED MERCENARY WHO GOES BY THE 'CRIMSON WIND' IS HERE AS WELL...
CLOP
CLOP
THAT INSIGNIA—
HUH. THE DUKE IS ON ONE OF HIS RARE OUTINGS
UGH HOW NOISY
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT A TOURNAMENT LIKE THAT THAT THEY WOULD SWARM HERE LIKE ANTS TO HONEY? THEY COULD JUST READ A BOOK OR TWO INSTEAD
HAHA. CITIZENS WOULD CRY IF THEY KNEW THAT THE VICTOR OF THE PREVIOUS TOURNAMENT SAID THINGS LIKE THAT
CLOP
CLOP
CHE! I WOULD NEVER HAVE PARTICIPATED IN A THING LIKE THAT IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT BET WITH HYUNG-NIM! USING THE SWORD FOR DEMON HUNTING IS ENOUGH
BUT I WONDER WHAT THE KING IS UP TO? HOLDING A FLAMBOYANT TOURNAMENT AT A TIME LIKE THIS
WELL, THAT SNEAKY GUY WOULD NEVER PLAY A LOSING GAME

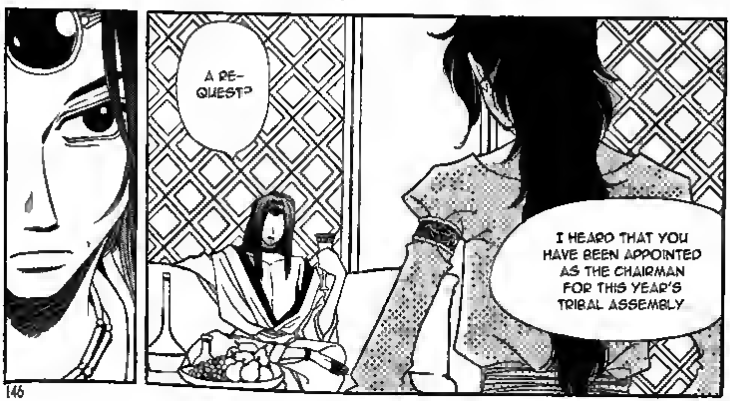

creak
MASTER, YOU HAVE A GUEST AWAITING YOU
A GUEST?
WHAT DILIGENT GUEST HAS COME TO VISIT ME AT THIS EARLY HOUR?

YOUR...
HIGHNESS?

HIGH...NESS?
"...Leader."
HYUNG-NIM

*SUKBU (SOOKBOO)-NIM: A RESPECTFUL WAY OF REFERRING TO ONE'S UNCLE

I HEARD OF YOUR RETURN.
BUT TO WHAT DO I OWE THE HONOR OF THIS UNEXPECTED VISIT?
trickle
I HAVE A REQUEST TO MAKE OF YOU


A RE-QUEST?
I HEARD THAT YOU HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AS THE CHAIRMAN FOR THIS YEAR'S TRIBAL ASSEMBLY

I REQUEST THAT YOU ALLOW ME TO SPEAK THAT DAY.
–TO ROYALTY SUCH AS YOU? WHATEVER FOR?
ON THAT DAY, I MUST NOT PARTICIPATE AS ROYALTY, BUT AS A MERCENARY BUT AT THE TRIBAL ASSEMBLY –
– YOU CANNOT SPEAK UNLESS YOU ARE OF EQUAL STATUS TO A TRIBE LEADER BUT IF I DO NOT DEFEND HIS CASE, THEN ALL THE BLAME WILL FALL UPON MY FRIEND.
I BEG OF YOU, SUIKEN-NIM

I REFUSE.
I REFUSE BECAUSE YOU ARE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.
A ROYAL PERSONAGE WHO CAST ASIDE HIS DUTIES CANNOT SEEK ONLY POWER. IF YOU INSIST ON PARTICIPATING AS A MERCENARY, THAT'S MY ANSWER TO YOU AS YOUR UNCLE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY.
...THEN WOULD YOU ACCEPT IF I SIMPLY EARNED POWER?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE... I SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED HIM IN!
WHY ISN'T HE COMING OUT?
MY LORD!
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
I WAS WORRYING!
K, KUYA?
LORD KUYA!!

YOU'VE PUSHED YOURSELF TO YOUR LIMIT!! YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT WELL EVER SINCE YOU RETURNED TO THE PALACE!!
—STOP BEING SO NOISY, CHIAK!
JUST GET READY TO LEAVE ALREADY
CLOP CLOP
—THAT TAMAHR, HE REALLY TAKES AFTER HYUNG-NIM
MY LORD DUKE I HAVE SENT SOMONE TO TAIL THEM, AS PER YOUR ORDERS
YES WELL DONE
ERUCHI! GATHER SOME SKILLED WARRIORS!
YESSIR!

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS SHAPING UP TO BE QUITE THE INTERESTING FESTIVAL
EHHK!! WHAT DID YOU SAY?
MY GOD! TO MAKE THAT SORT OF PROMISE!! EVEN WHEN YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO!!
.....
WHEN RUKA FINDS OUT HE'LL SKIN ME ALIVE!
...CHI.AKI.
CALL ME KUYA. JUST ONCE.

...THE SLEEPING DRAUGHT HAS BEEN PREPARED PLEASE DRINK THIS AND REST.
CHIAK!!
...PLEASE DRINK BEFORE IT LOSES ITS EFFECTIVE-NESS.
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO.
I CAN NO LONGER DO THAT. I AM MY LORD KUNCHARA'S ZAKU.
.....
I DON'T NEED IT. TAKE IT AWAY.
LORD KUNCHARA!!
IF ONLY I WERE GONE, THEN...
SHUT UP!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE THEM MY HEAD INSTEAD!
DON'T TEST MY PATIENCE, ALANA CHIAK!!

YOU WANT TO DIE? AFTER COMING ALL THIS WAY? DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THIS MESS WILL ALL DISAPPEAR IF YOU JUST DIE? YOU THINK I'M DOING ALL THIS JUST TO SAVE YOUR NECK? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, ALANA CHIAKI!
YOUR LIFE MEANS NOTHING TO ME! I'M DOING THIS FOR MY OTHER FRIENDS! HARU! MIRU! THE MERCENARY CARAVAN! GOT IT? IF YOU DIE THEN THEY'LL ALL DIE AS WELL!!! EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!!!
...GET OUT.
I WANT TO BE ALONE.

SHIT...
HAA...
...DAMNIT!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, KUYA!? TO CHIAKI! THAT WAS CHIAKI!
YOU'RE JUST PUSHING ALL THE BLAME WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG!! IT WAS YOUR FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF, KUYA! I...I'M...
YOU JUST WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM IT ALL, DON'T YOU?
LIKE YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE

TAMAUR, YOU KNOW FULL WELL HOW COLD AND CRUEL YOU ARE IF IT WOULD BENEFIT YOU, YOU COULD KILL ANYBODY THAT'S JUST WHO YOU ARE
FRIEND? THAT'S A LIE YOU DON'T TRUST ANYBODY EXCEPT YOURSELF NO YOU SIMPLY CAN'T. PRINCE. IT'S NO USE TRYING TO PRETEND THAT YOU'RE A MERCENARY. YOU'RE ROYALTY. ONE OF THOSE HEARTLESS MURDERERS
WHAT YOU JUST SAID TO CHIAKI ARE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS, TAMAUR.
NOW, JUST BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF. YOU JUST WANT TO RECLAIM YOUR RIGHTFUL POWERS AGAIN, RIGHT?
THE IMMEMSE POWER THAT NO ONE COULD EVER IGNORE!

YES! THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!
IT DESTROYS EVERYTHING
AND IT GIVES BIRTH TO EVERY-THING!
POWER! POWER! POWER!!!
THE POWER TO WIELD BOTH PROSPERITY AND DESTRUCTION!!

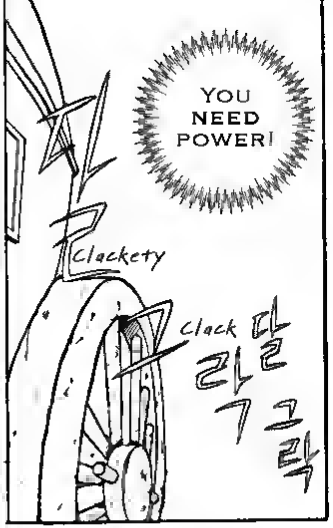
SAY THAT YOU DESIRE IT! ADMIT IT, TAMAUR!!
...I MUST
HAVE BECOME QUITE CONTEMPTIBLE. JUST ABOUT ANYBODY IS COMING TO TRY AND WALK ALL OVER ME.
GET LOST, -SPIRIT- WHERE IS YOUR OWN KING, FOR YOU TO COME CRAWLING TO ME?

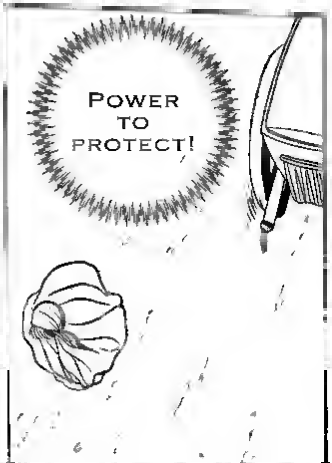
I THOUGHT THAT YOUR TAKING MY FORM WAS COMMENDABLE, SO I WAS BEING GENEROUS BY LISTENING TO YOU PRATTLE ON. BUT I'M TIRED OF IT NOW. GO BACK TO YOUR OWN KING.
AMAZING! AMAZING! AMAZING! NOBODY COULD EVER TELL! NOBODY KNEW!
ONLY TAMAUR! ONLY HE KNEW ME FOR WHO I WAS!! THE TRUE KING! THE TRUE CHA-KUN!
THE TRUE MASTER OF LUNAPI! THE TRUE KING OF PAIRU!
...AMAZING.

YES! YES! THOSE FOOLISH VERMIN WERE TIRING ME! THEY WEREN'T MEANT TO BE THE GREAT LUNAPI'S MASTERS! NO, THEY WEREN'T!
TAMAURU! TAMAURU! MY MASTER! CALL ME! MY NAME! CALL LUNAPI!
...YOU MUST HAVE DECEIVED MY OLDER BROTHER WITH THOSE ARTFUL WORDS AS WELL...
SLICE

HE CUT ME!
HE CUT ME!!
MY MASTER!
HE CUT ME!!
WHY?
I'M STRONG!
I'M POWERFUL!
TAMAUR,
YOU WANTED
STRENGTH!

IT'S NO USE! NO USE TRYING TO DENY IT, TAMAUR! THE WHITE VERMIN WILL DIE.
LUNAPI IS FREE! TAMAUR IS MINE! LUNAPI KNOWS!

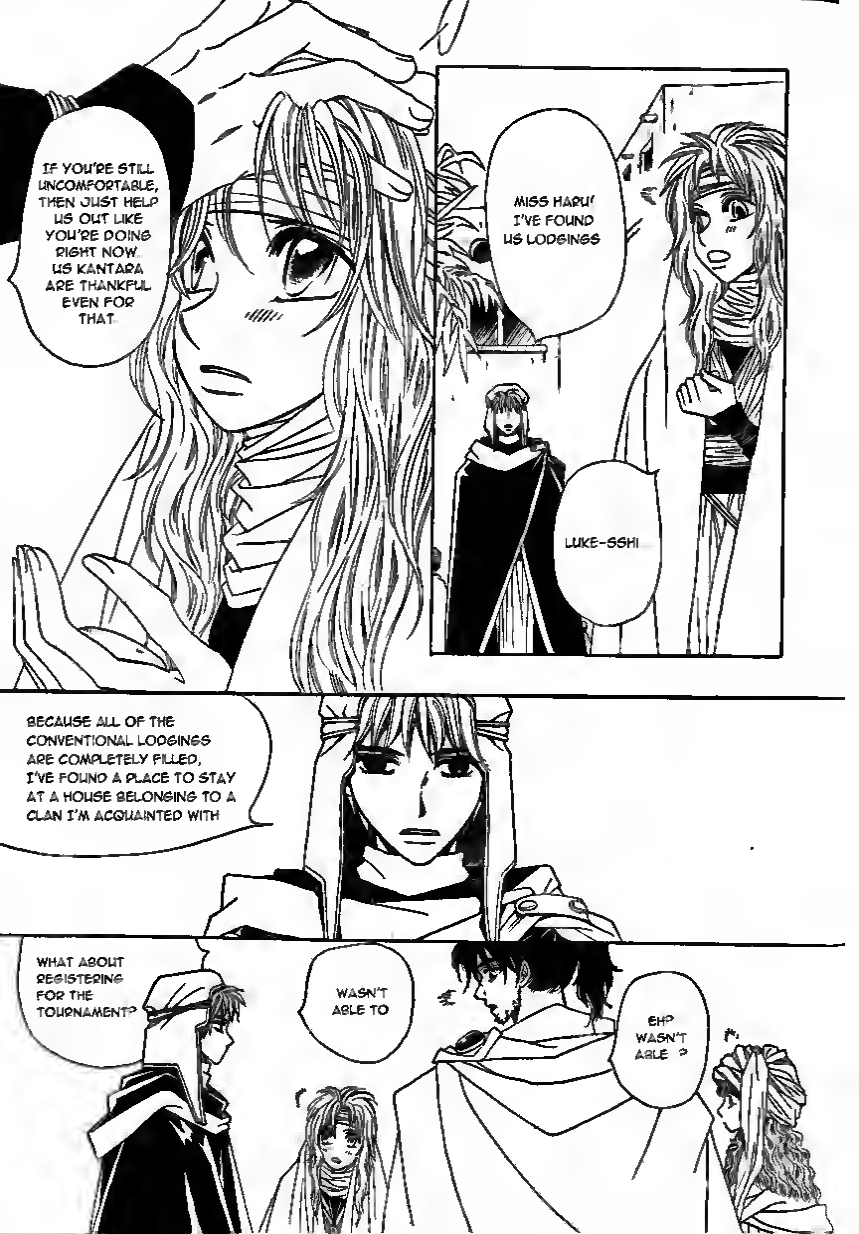

YOU NEED POWER!
Clackety
Clack
딸
라
그
락


POWER TO PROTECT!

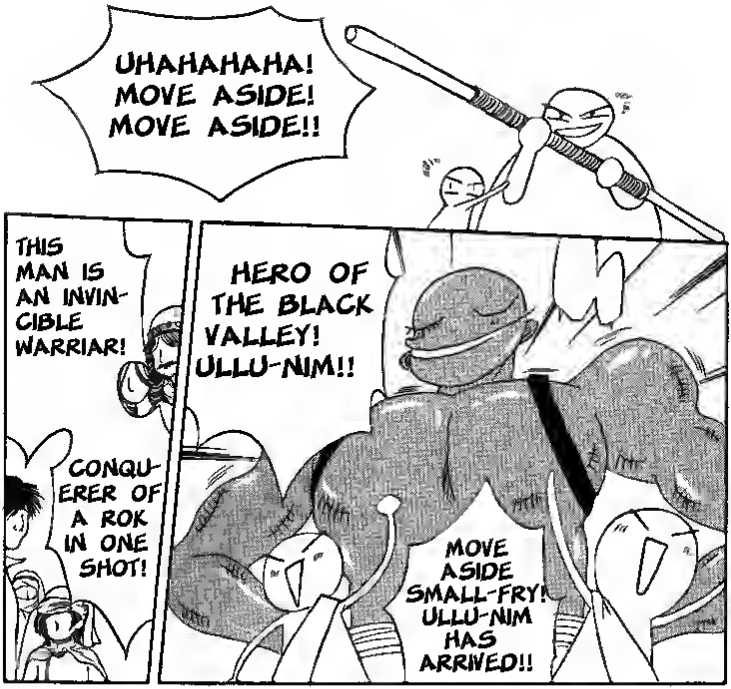
YOU'LL CHOOSE ME, TAMAUR!
LUNAPI KNOWS!

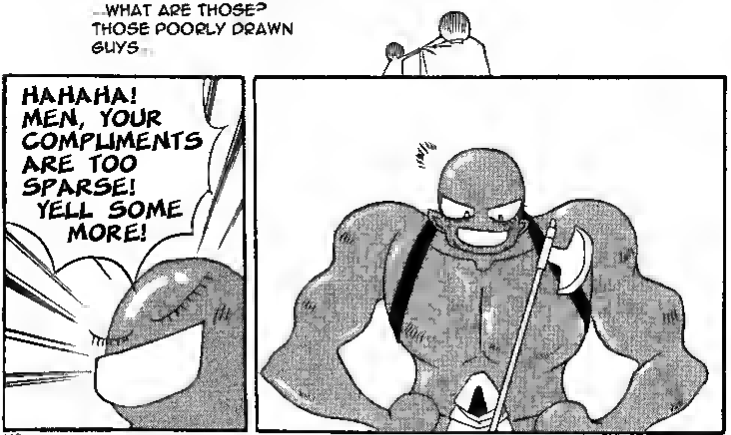
BATTLE
BATTLE
THE RUMOR THAT ON TOP OF THE ENORMOUS PRIZE MONEY, THEY'LL GRANT A SINGLE WISH OF THE WINNER OF THE TOURNAMENT HELD TO CELEBRATE THE KING'S BIRTHDAY?
THAT'S THE REASON WE CAME TO PAIRU AFTER ALL.
DO YOU THINK THAT RUMOR'S TRUE?

IF HYUNG HEARD IT, IT'S PROBABLY TRUE MAHIR-HYUNG IS REALLY WELL-VERSED ON RUMORS LIKE THAT
AFTER TARA PASSED AWAY, ALL THE WELLS IN THE VILLAGE DRIED UP
YOKNA-NIM SAYS THAT'S OBVIOUS SINCE THEY WERE ALL SUPPORTED BY TARA'S POWER, BUT THE VILLAGERS NOW HAVE NOTHING TO RELY ON
FORTUNATELY, TARA'S SEEDLING REMAINS, BUT WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE FOR IT TO GROW STRONG ENOUGH TO TO PRODUCE WATER?
ON TOP OF THAT, THE SPIRIT STONE
I CAN'T DO IT AFTER ALL! TAKE IT BACK MUSHUK SSI! IT'S TOO VALUABLE FOR ME TO TAKE!
HAA, YOU'RE MAKING ME REPEAT MYSELF
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, LADY RUKIA WE WOULD STILL THINK TARA-NIM WAS SIMPLY A WOODEN TOTEM OF AN ANCESTOR WE LIVED THANKS TO TARA-NIM, BUT WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW TARA-NIM
THE VILLAGERS AND I ARE REFLECTING ON OURSELVES WE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO OWN IT AND TARA-NIM GAVE IT DIRECTLY TO YOU SO IT REALLY DOES BELONG TO YOU, RUKIA-NIM


IF YOU'RE STILL UNCOMFORTABLE, THEN JUST HELP US OUT LIKE YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW. US KANTARA ARE THANKFUL EVEN FOR THAT.
MISS HARU! I'VE FOUND US LODGINGS
LUKE-SSHI
BECAUSE ALL OF THE CONVENTIONAL LODGINGS ARE COMPLETELY FILLED, I'VE FOUND A PLACE TO STAY AT A HOUSE BELONGING TO A CLAN I'M ACQUAINTED WITH
WHAT ABOUT REGISTERING FOR THE TOURNAMENT?
WASN'T ABLE TO
EH? WASN'T ABLE ?

SEE FOR YOURSELF
PUSH SHOVE
HAR HAR, VERY FUNNY. A WEEK'S NOTHING TO 10 DAYS!!
ARGHH! MOVE!! I'VE WAITED FOR THREE DAYS!!
ALL APPLICANTS GATHER HERE!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!! I'VE WAITED FOR A WEEK!!
W, WHAT'S WITH THIS HOARD OF PEOPLE!?
THESE ARE HUMANS
THANKS TO THAT RUMOR TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE GATHERED THEY'VE BEEN WAITING 10 DAYS JUST TO ENTER THE PRELI-MI NARIES
WELL, I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE RUMOR BEING A FAKE ANYMORE
IT COULD EVEN TURN INTO A RIOT
OHO!! THEN WE REALLY *HAVE* COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!!
WAIT HERE! I'LL MAKE A PATHWAY REAL QUICK!!
ACK! MUSHUK-SSH!! NO VIOLENCE! PLEASE!!


UHAHAHAHA! MOVE ASIDE! MOVE ASIDE!!
THIS MAN IS AN INVINCIBLE WARRIAR!
CONQUERER OF A ROK IN ONE SHOT!
HERO OF THE BLACK VALLEY! ULLU-NIM!!
MOVE ASIDE SMALL-FRY! ULLU-NIM HAS ARRIVED!!

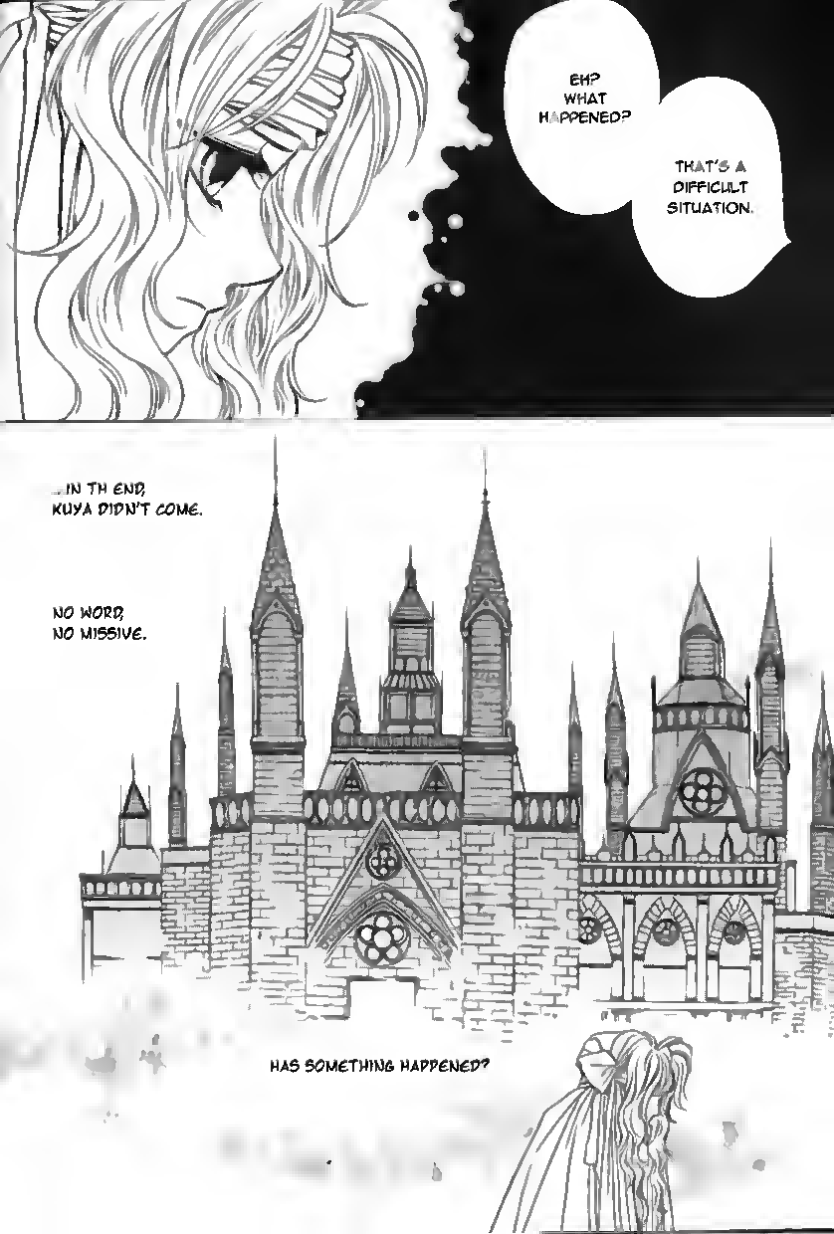

...WHAT ARE THOSE? THOSE POORLY DRAWN GUYS...
HAHAHA! MEN, YOUR COMPLIMENTS ARE TOO SPARSE! YELL SOME MORE!

HEY! ULLU-NIM IS PASSING THROUGH! SMALL-FRY LIKE YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ME, BUT I'M GENEROUSLY GIVING YOU TIME TO MOVE ASIDE. NOW CLEAR THE PATH!
UMNYA
UMNYA
SNORE...
KUH...
ZZZ
ZZZ
W...
ZZZ
WHY YOU!!
DIE!!
yawn...

BASH
Gyaaah
SO SLEEPY..
WHEN~ WILL THE PRELIMS~ START?

fuuu...
HUH?
THAT'S BASHA...
OH? MUSHUK!

WOW~ IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
AH, I'LL INTRODUCE YA. A SKILLED MERCENARY HAILING FROM THE EASTERN CONTINENT.
AH, NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'D HEARD THAT YOU'D GONE BACK TO YOUR HOMETOWN, BUT ARE YOU RETURNING TO THE FIELD?
I'M JUST DOING A FAVOR FOR A TRADER I'M INDEBTED TO. AFTER THIS IS OVER I'M HEADING HOME AGAIN
HMM. THAT'S A PITY.
BUT BEFORE THAT, ARE YOU COMPETING IN THE TOURNAMENT AS WELL? I'M SURPRISED I THOUGHT YOU HATED CITY EVENTS?
AHH— I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE
THE FUTURE OF THE VILLAGE IS ON THE LINE.

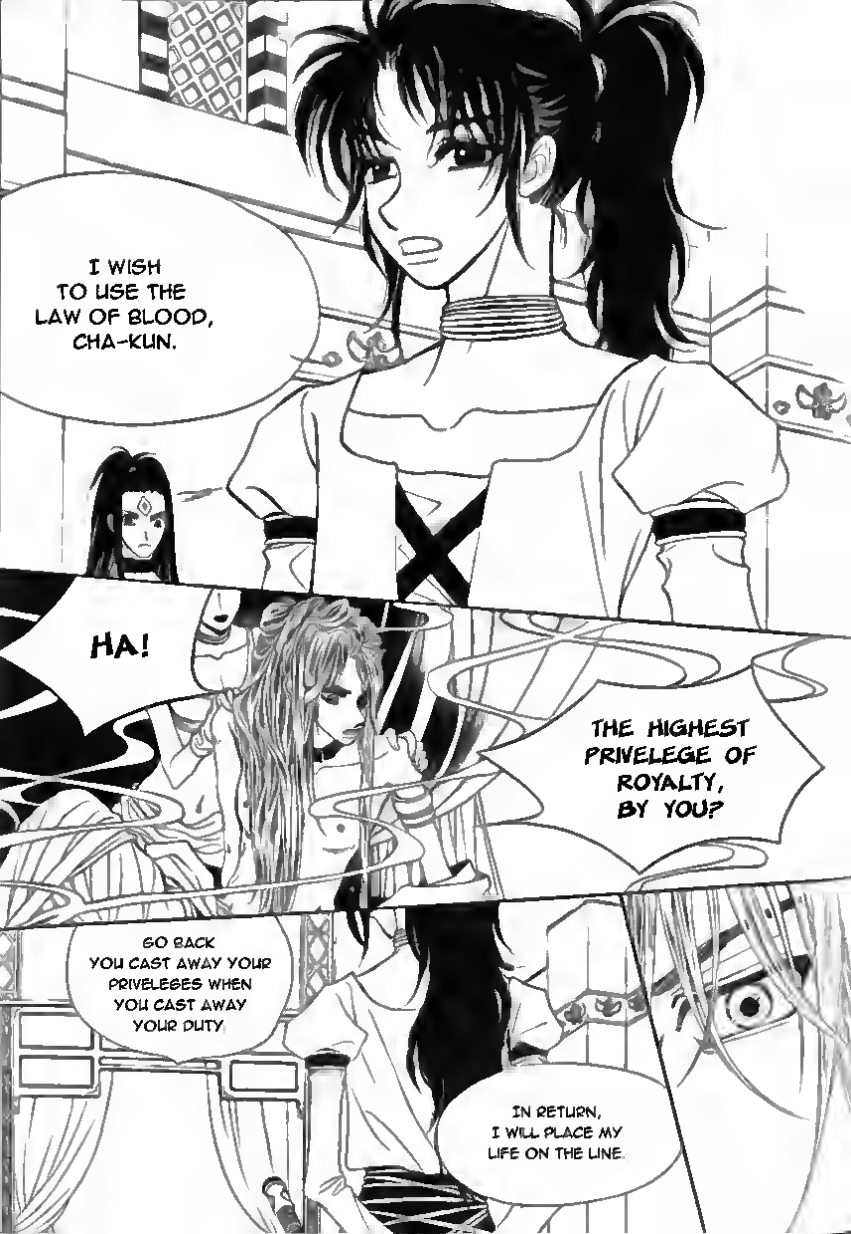

EH? WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT'S A DIFFICULT SITUATION.
...IN TH END, KUYA DIDN'T COME.
NO WORD, NO MISSIVE.
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?

OR...
HAVE I BEEN ABANDONED..?
IF IT'S ABOUT THAT GUY, DON'T WORRY.
WHAT? THAT EXILED CROWN PRINCE IS PARTICIPATING IN THE TOURNAMENT?
YANOK?

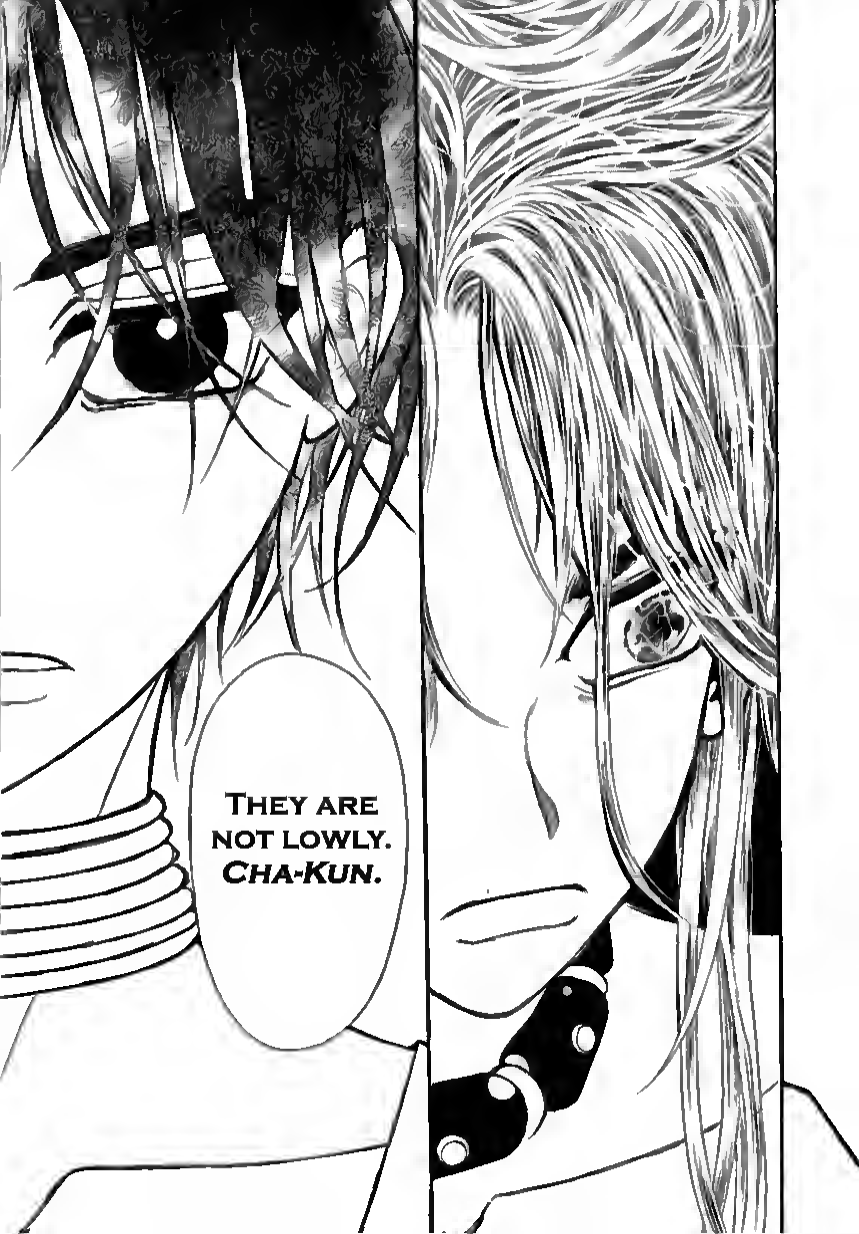
YOU DIDN'T KNOW? IT'S A FAMOUS RUMOR.
WORD HAS IT THAT THE EXILED CROWN PRINCE RETURNED AFTER 8 YEARS AND ENTERED THE TOURNAMENT
WITH THE [LAW OF BLOOD] ON THE LINE AS WELL.

EH?
W, WAIT, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WILL KUYA REALLY COME OUT IN THE TOURNAMENT? AND WHAT'S THE LAW OF BLOOD?
TELL ME! KUYA... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!!?

WHAT... DID YOU JUST SAY?


I WISH TO USE THE LAW OF BLOOD, CHA-KUN.
HA!
THE HIGHEST PRIVELEGE OF ROYALTY, BY YOU?
GO BACK YOU CAST AWAY YOUR PRIVELEGES WHEN YOU CAST AWAY YOUR DUTY.
IN RETURN, I WILL PLACE MY LIFE ON THE LINE.

I MAY HAVE CAST ASIDE BOTH MY THRONE AND MY DUTY, BUT MY BLOOD AND FLESH ARE UNMISTAKABLY OF ROYALTY I WILL TRADE MY LIFE FOR THE LIVES OF CHIAKI, HIS TRIBE... EVERYBODY.
...
...SPILL NOBLE BLOOD FOR THE SAKE OF A LOWLY HUMANIMIAL AND HIS TRIBE!


THEY ARE NOT LOWLY. CHA-KUN.

"TRADE ROYAL BLOOD AND FLESH FOR SINS OF OTHERS." THE LAW OF BLOOD WAS THE FIRST ROYAL PRIVILEGE THE FIRST GENERATION CHA-KUN MADE. BUT IT'S ALSO THE MOST BRUTAL LAW. AS IT SAYS, IT LITERALLY DEMANDS THE BLOOD AND FLESH OF ROYALTY.
THAT'S THE REASON WHY THE EXILED CROWN PRINCE IS PARTICIPATING IN THE TOURNAMENT. THANKS TO THAT LAW, ALL THE TOURNAMENT WARRIORS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KILL HIM. THE DESERT FAVORS THE STRONG. IF THEY WIN, THEY GAIN GLORY, IF THEY LOSE, THEY DIE. THAT'S WHY PAIRU IS IN UPROAR.

SFX: DASH
HARU!!
.....
IS IS NOT YOUR FAULT.
HUH? WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GET TO SEE ROYALTY DIE EVERY DAY.
SHE SIMPLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BEAR THE TITLE 'PRINCE' NO IDEA AT ALL
HARU! WAIT!
...AS EXPECTED, MASA-NIM SAW CORRECTLY.

HE KNEW.
EVEN IF YOU RUN NOW, YOU CAN'T GET INTO THE PALACE! THERE ARE SOLDIERS EVERYWEHERE BECAUSE OF THIS!
WAIT A MOMENT!!
HE KNEW!!
...FROM THE BEGINNING, MY LIFE WAS GUARANTEED.
HE KNEW IT ALL ALONG!!
CALM DOWN, HARU!!
I'M A RUKIA! NO TRIBE WOULD EVER HARM A RUKIA BUT BECAUSE THAT WASN'T ENOUGH TO SAVE CHIAKI... HE LEFT ALONE. BECAUSE IF I WAS WITH HIM, I WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY STOPPED HIM.
HE PLANNED TO SACRIFICE ONLY HIMSELF ALL ALONG!

T/N: DAH. HARU IS EXCEEDINGLY ANNOYING ON THIS PAGE...
ONLY I DIDN'T KNOW! WHAT A RUKIA IS! WHAT HE WAS THINKING WHEN HE LEFT! I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING AND JUST RESENTED KUYA!
THAT BASTARD! HOW CAN HE DECIDE THIS ALL BY HIMSELF? HOW CAN HE...
YANOK! WHAT WILL I DO... IF KUYA DIES... IF HE DIES...! WHAT CAN I DO?! I CAN'T SEE HIM AGAIN? WAS THAT THE FINAL FAREWELL? NO... IT CAN'T!

KUYA! KUYA!
KUYA!!
KUYA!!
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO DISAPPEAR THIS WAY? IS THIS IT? NO... NO! NO!!

IF KUYA
DISAPPEARS...
I... CAN'T
GO ON...

Translator's plea for help...

YES. AS YOU READ ABOVE, THE TRANSLATOR (AKA CRAZEEAPPLE) NEEDS HELP FROM A FELLOW KOREAN SPEAKER.
IF YOU ARE OUT THERE...

COME FORTH.

please?